FINAL SCOPING SUMMARY REPORT

Kane Springs Valley Groundwater Development Project Environmental Impact Statement

Prepared for

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Nevada State Office

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Nevada State Office, is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for a right-of-way application submitted by the Lincoln County Water District (LCWD or Applicant) to construct and operate a system of regional water facilities known as the Kane Springs Valley (KSV) Groundwater Development Project (Project). The EIS will consider the environmental impacts associated with granting of rights-of-way across public land for the purposes of construction and operation of the proposed facilities (Proposed Action). The BLM will use the EIS in rendering a decision whether to grant the requested rights-of-way. BLM's action is to either grant or deny the request for rights-of-way through public land administered by the BLM. If granted, the right-of-way would authorize LCWD to construct infrastructure required to utilize groundwater resources approved for use by the Nevada State Engineer and located in Lincoln County to help meet anticipated future water needs in southern Lincoln County. This Scoping Summary Report includes a description of the scoping process and a summary of the comments submitted by the public.

The primary purpose of scoping is to aide in the identification of significant issues related to a federal action; in this case - approval or denial of the right-of way application submitted by the LCWD. The Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) regulations defines scoping as "an early and open process for determining the issues to be addressed in an EIS and for identifying the significant issues related to the proposed action" (Title 40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] Part 1501.7). The objective of the scoping process is to coordinate with affected federal, state, and local agencies, affected American Indian tribes, and the public, and determine the scope of the project, including the range of actions, alternatives, and impacts to be considered in an EIS.

The Notice of Intent (NOI) published in the *Federal Register* (Volume 71. No. 62) on March 31, 2006, formally announced that the BLM Nevada State Office was preparing an EIS for the Proposed Action. Although the official scoping period ended on May 1, 2006, the BLM will consider issues brought forward any time during the EIS process; however, only comments submitted during and shortly after the scoping period are summarized in this report.

The BLM distributed press releases announcing the dates, locations and times of scoping meetings to local and regional print and broadcast media. The press release was sent to newspapers, as well as radio and television stations for airing of public service announcements. Paid legal notices indicating the dates, locations and times of scoping meetings were published in the local newspapers serving the Reno, Las Vegas, Baker, Caliente, and Mesquite, Nevada areas.

The BLM held concurrent scoping meetings for both the proposed KSV Project and the Lincoln County Land Act Groundwater Development and Utility Right-of-Way Project (LCLA Project). The BLM is preparing a separate EIS for the LCLA Project in response to a right-of-way application submitted by the LCWD for groundwater development in the Tule Desert and Clover Mountain hydrographic basins. Scoping meetings were held in Caliente, Nevada on April 11, 2006; Alamo, Nevada on April 11, 2006; Mesquite, Nevada on April 12, 2006; Las Vegas, Nevada on April 13, 2006; and Reno, Nevada on April 17, 2006. Meetings were held from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at each location. A sixth scoping meeting was added in Baker, Nevada on April 18, 2006 at

the request of area residents. This meeting was held from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. These scoping meetings provided an opportunity for the public to learn about both projects and to provide comments.

During the public scoping period, a total of 95 responses, containing 228 comments were received. However, not all comments dealt with the scope of issues to be considered in the EIS. A response is defined as one completed comment form, email, fax, letter, or website submittal. Because some responses had more than one comment, the total number of comments received is greater than the number of respondents, or individuals who submitted comments. Of the 95 responses, 15 included comments specific to the proposed KSV Project, 35 addressed concerns or issues for both the proposed KSV Project and the proposed LCLA Project, and 45 responses were requests to be kept informed of both projects. A summary of scoping comments received during the public scoping period is provided in **Appendix A**.

Based on the issues and recommendations identified during the scoping process, as well as guidance from NEPA, three general categories were identified: NEPA Process; Impacts to Social Resources; and Impacts to Physical Resources. Sub-categories to be considered in the evaluation of the Proposed Action and alternatives are listed below.

NEPA Process – Eight-six comments were received specific to the NEPA process. To the fullest extent possible, federal agencies, including the BLM, "*are required to work according to the policies set forth in NEPA and its implementing regulations*." The EIS must be legally defensible and meet the requirements of all applicable laws and regulations. The EIS will follow the requirements of NEPA, Administrative Procedures Act, CEQ regulations [40 CFR 1500 – 1508], Departmental Manual Part 516 DM 2 and DM6, Appendix 5, and BLM standards outlined in the BLM Handbook H-1790-1.

Social Resources – Fifty-one comments were received specific to concerns about impacts from the Proposed Action or alternatives on the human or built environment. Scoping comments were provided on the following resources: 1) Aesthetics (Including Visual Resources and Noise); 2) Cultural Resources (Including Paleontology); 3) Land Use (Including Transportation, Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, Wilderness Areas, and Other Special Use Areas); 4) Recreation; 5) Socioeconomic Resources; 6) Public Health and Safety; and 7) Environmental Justice.

Physical Resources – Ninety comments were received specific to concerns about impacts from the Proposed Action or alternatives to components of the physical environment. Scoping comments were provided on the following resources: 1) Air Quality and Climate; 2) Biological Resources (Including Endangered, Threatened, Proposed and Candidate Species, Fisheries, Migratory Birds, Range Resources, Vegetation, Noxious Weeds, Wetlands/Riparian Habitat, and Wild Horses and Burros); 3) Geology, Soils, and Minerals; and 4) Water Resources.

SUMMARY OF FUTURE STEPS

The next formal comment period will open when the Draft EIS is published. The availability of the Draft EIS will be announced by publication of a notice in the *Federal Register*, as well as other media, such as local print and broadcast media. In addition, the BLM will circulate a notice of the Draft EIS to interested parties included in the project mailing list. Following the release of the

Draft EIS, there will be a 60-day public comment period and additional public meetings to receive comments on the Draft EIS.

Following the comment period, the Final EIS would be prepared. The Final EIS would consider and incorporate any other comments received during the review period. The availability of the Final EIS will be announced by publication of a notice in the *Federal Register*, at which time a 30-day public review period will commence. The final opportunity for public comment on the EIS will be this 30-day public review period. No sooner than 30 days after publication of the Final EIS, the Secretary of the Interior will issue a Record of Decision (ROD). The ROD would explain all factors, including environmental impacts that the BLM considered in reaching its decision. The ROD will also identify the environmentally preferred alternative, or alternatives. If mitigation measures, monitoring, or other conditions are adopted as part of the BLM's decision, these would be summarized in the ROD, as applicable.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

The LCWD has applied to the BLM for issuance of a right-of-way to construct and operate a system of regional water facilities known as the Kane Springs Valley Groundwater Development Project (KSV Project). The Proposed Action is the construction and operation of the proposed groundwater facilities. The Nevada State Office of the BLM is the lead federal agency for the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), and will direct preparation of the EIS in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The BLM Nevada State Office has been designated by the Nevada BLM State Director and the Ely Field Manager as the Lead for the Project.

The EIS for the Proposed Action will consider the environmental impacts associated with granting of rights-of-way across public land for the purposes of construction and operation of the proposed facilities. The BLM will use the EIS in rendering a final decision whether to grant rights-of-way requested by LCWD. If granted, the right-of-way would authorize LCWD to construct infrastructure required to pump and convey groundwater resources approved for pumping by the Nevada State Engineer and located in Lincoln County to help meet anticipated future water needs in southern Lincoln County.

1.1 Proposed Project

The LCWD has submitted applications to the Nevada State Engineer to appropriate groundwater in the Kane Springs Valley hydrographic basin in Lincoln County, Nevada. The LCWD is proposing to develop groundwater resources in the Kane Springs Valley hydrographic basin for beneficial use within the Coyote Springs Investment (CSI) development area in southern Lincoln County. The CSI development area is a proposed master planned community with up to 150,000 dwelling units and encompassing roughly 42,800 acres of fee and leased land in Clark and Lincoln Counties. Project components (pipeline, wells, access roads, etc.) for the Proposed Action would primarily be located in a 20-foot wide permanent easement adjacent to Kane Springs Road, an unpaved gravel road located east off of Highway 93.

Production facilities for the Proposed Action would consist of up to seven production water wells located within or immediately adjacent to the utility corridor established by the Lincoln County Conservation, Recreation and Development Act of 2004 (Public Act 108-424). Collectively, the wells would pump up to 5,000 acre feet of groundwater per year. Preliminary engineering design indicates a system of lateral buried pipelines up to 12-inches in diameter to connect the production wells to the water-transmission pipeline. A buried water-transmission pipeline up to 24-inches in diameter located within or immediately adjacent to the utility corridor established by the Lincoln County Conservation, Recreation and Development Act of 2004 would connect the well field to the Coyote Springs development (the termination point will be determined subsequent to final design and engineering studies and final design will determine the actual pipeline diameters). Overall distance would be approximately 13.2 miles. Associated ancillary facilities would include distribution power lines and communication lines to be placed in the easement to provide power and communication for the project facilities. Access roads would be needed from the Kane Springs Road for vehicle access to each well site.

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2.0 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

The process the BLM will use to determine whether the application for rights-of-way should be granted is comprehensive and includes compliance with the requirements of NEPA and CEQ regulations, BLM planning regulations, manuals and handbooks, and applicable policy documents. This includes the recent CEQ memorandum to the heads of federal agencies on the subject of "Cooperating Agencies in Implementing the Procedural Requirements for NEPA," to ensure federal agencies actively engage state, local, and other federal agencies in preparation of NEPA analyses and documentation.

NEPA is a procedural act designed to ensure that the environmental consequences of major federal decisions are known and available to the public and public officials before decisions are made and actions are undertaken. Public participation is a requirement of the environmental review process. It provides a means to inform the public about activities that involve a federal action and solicit their concerns and issues regarding the proposed action. The BLM will use the concerns and issues identified through public participation to assist with the development of the scope, content, and alternatives analysis for the EIS for the Proposed Action. Throughout the NEPA process, the public participation effort will focus on gathering input and dispersing information about the following key areas:

- The purpose and need for the Proposed Action and related goals and objectives.
- The potential set of reasonable alternative actions, including the No Action alternative.
- Methodologies that will be used to assess impacts.
- Potential impacts and associated mitigation

2.1 Public Scoping Outreach Activities

Public scoping outreach activities included publication of the Notice of Intent (NOI) in the *Federal Register*, direct mailings, media releases to print and broadcast media, paid advertisements announcing public scoping meetings, publication of the project information on the BLM web site, and public scoping meetings. These activities are described in the following sections.

2.1.1 Notice of Intent

A *Federal Register* NOI to prepare an EIS and initiate a 30-day scoping period was published on March 31, 2006 (Volume 71, No. 62). A copy of the NOI is included in **Appendix B**. The NOI invited the participation of the affected and interested agencies, organizations, and members of the general public in determining the scope and significant issues to be addresses and analyzed in the EIS. The official scoping period ended on May 1, 2006. Comments submitted during, and shortly thereafter the scoping period, are summarized in this report.

2.1.2 Media Notices

The BLM distributed press releases to local and regional newspapers, as well as radio and television stations for airing of public service announcements. A list of print and broadcast media outlets receiving the public notice, and a copy of the BLM press release is included in **Appendix C**. The *Lincoln County Record*, a weekly newspaper serving the Caliente and Alamo areas, and the *Desert Valley Times*, published twice a week, in Mesquite, Nevada printed articles announcing the public scoping meetings. A public meeting notice was published in the legal section of the *Reno Gazette Journal* and the *Las Vegas Review Journal*, both of which are daily newspapers. A display ad was also published in the *Ely Times*, a local weekly newspaper serving White Pine County, including Ely and Baker.

2.1.3 Direct Mailings

A public scoping notice was prepared and mailed to federal, state, and local agencies; elected officials; Native American tribes; special interest groups and organizations; and the general public on March 31, 2006. The distribution list was compiled from a list of individuals, organizations, and agencies who had expressed interest in other BLM Ely Field Office projects. There were approximately 1,725 addresses on the distribution list that were sent the scoping notice.

The notice served to inform the public about the scoping process for the preparation of the EIS and the scheduled scoping meetings. It invited the public to participate in the scoping process and to share any concerns or comments, submit information, and identify issues to be addressed during the EIS process. A copy of the public scoping notice is provided in **Appendix D**.

2.1.4 Project Website

The BLM Nevada State Office is hosting a website to inform the general public about the three groundwater development projects managed under the Nevada Groundwater Projects Office within the BLM Nevada State Office. In addition to the proposed KSV Project, the Nevada Groundwater Projects Office is overseeing the preparation of two other EIS's for groundwater development projects in eastern Nevada. The LCLA Project is a separate groundwater development project proposed by the LCWD to develop groundwater resources in the Tule Desert and Clover Valley hydrographic basins in Lincoln County. The BLM is preparing a separate EIS for the proposed LCLA Project in response to the right-of-way application submitted by LCWD. The Southern Nevada Water Authority has submitted right-of-way applications to develop and transport water from White Pine, Lincoln and rural Clark counties to the Las Vegas metropolitan area of Clark County, Nevada. The website, located at: http://www.nv.blm.gov/, is updated periodically as new information is made available. The site contains background information on all three projects, and includes project data, maps, and other information to inform the public on how to stay involved during the EIS process. The website also allows members of the public to be added to the mailing list and to submit comments and concerns throughout the EIS process.

2.1.5 Public Scoping Meetings

The BLM held six public scoping meetings to identify issues and concerns about the Proposed Action. Moreover, these scoping meetings provided an opportunity for the public to learn about the Proposed Action and to provide comments. Meeting locations, dates, and times are provided in **Table 2.1**. The scoping meetings for both the proposed KSV and LCLA Projects were held concurrently. A total of 72 individuals attended the public scoping meetings.

Table 2.1
Public Scoping Meetings

Location	Date	Time	Attendance
Caliente, NV	April 10, 2006	7p.m. – 9p.m.	11
Alamo, NV	April 11, 2006	7p.m. – 9p.m.	5
Mesquite, NV	April 12, 2006	7p.m. – 9p.m.	10
Las Vegas, NV	April 13, 2006	7p.m. – 9p.m.	20
Reno, NV	April 17, 2006	7p.m. – 9p.m.	17
Baker, NV	April 18, 2006	4p.m. – 8p.m.	9
		Total	**72**

These counts reflect only those attendees that elected to sign in at the door. A few attendees elected not to sign in.

Representatives from the BLM, LCWD, Vidler Water Company (which provides project financing and technical expertise to LCWD), and Greystone /ARCADIS (BLM EIS consultant) were available to answer questions about both the KSV and LCLA Projects. The public scoping meetings were held using an open house format to allow for an informal one-on-one exchange of information. Attendance at each public scoping meeting was recorded using a sign-in sheet at the registration station at each meeting location. A scoping package containing the public scoping notice, comment form, and an 8 ½ x 11 color map of the project area was provided to each attendee **(Appendix D)**.

Informational display posters illustrating the Applicants' proposed pipeline corridor, project specifications, and the NEPA process, were placed around the room for viewing. The attendees were encouraged to review the informational displays, ask questions, and make comments. Recommendations and concerns raised during informal discussions were recorded on flip charts and later entered into the comments database. A summary of comments received during the public scoping process is included in **Appendix A**.

2.2 Agency Coordination

During the EIS process, ongoing agency consultation efforts will occur related to environmental and archaeological resources or historic properties potentially affected by the Proposed Action. As resources are identified, various federal, state, and local agencies, including Native American tribes will be consulted to assist in characterizing the sensitivity of resources to project activities as well as to aid in determining mitigation measures to ensure that effects on resources are minimized. The following sections discuss current consultation efforts.

2.2.1 Cooperating Agencies

The Moapa Valley Water District, National Park Service – Lake Mead National Recreational Area, Nevada Department of Wildlife, Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S Geological Survey (USGS), and the Virgin Valley Water District were invited to participate as cooperating agencies in preparation of

the EIS for the Proposed Action. The Moapa Valley Water District, Nevada Department of Wildlife, and USFWS have agreed to participate as cooperating agencies; the Virgin Valley Water District is reviewing the invitation. The USGS, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the National Park Service have declined cooperating agency status. The USGS noted that they will continue to provide science support to the BLM, "…when [their] data and scientific expertise have relevance to the proposed action undergoing NEPA process. Such assistance could include attending or making presentations at scoping and technical meetings, and conducting species studies and data collection projects." No response was received from the Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

A cooperating agency assists the lead federal agency (i.e. BLM) in developing the EIS. The President's CEQ regulations (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508) implementing NEPA defines a cooperating agency as any agency that has jurisdiction by law or special expertise with respect to any environmental issue that should be addressed in the EIS. Any federal, state, tribal or local government agency with such qualifications may become a cooperating agency by agreement with the lead agency. The benefits of a cooperating agency status include disclosure of relevant information early in the analytical process, receipt of technical expertise and staff support, avoidance of duplication with state, tribal and local procedures, and establishment of a mechanism of addressing intergovernmental issues.

2.2.2 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Consultation

To comply with section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973, BLM initiated consultation with the USFWS as part of the EIS process. Representatives from the BLM, LCWD, Vidler Water Company and the EIS Consultants met with representatives from the USFWS on April 17, 2006. The intent of the meeting was to provide the USFWS with an overview of the proposed KSV Project and to understand areas of interest and issues the USFWS and BLM may have regarding the Proposed Action and alternatives. The USFWS provided a species list dated May 10, 2006 (Service File No. 1-5-06-SP-500) to the BLM in accordance with section 7 of the ESA. In that correspondence, the USFWS listed the threatened, endangered, and candidate species, as well as designated critical habitat that may occur within or near the project area. On May 18, 2006, the USFWS submitted public scoping comments based on the information provided in the scoping document, and how it pertains to their conservation responsibilities and management of trust resources, including threatened and endangered species, designated critical habitat, migratory birds, and other rare and sensitive species.

The BLM will continue to coordinate with the USFWS and other agencies and organizations involved in other planning efforts in the area to ensure the Proposed Action and alternatives does not conflict with future conservation measures or actions under development, including the Southeastern Lincoln County Habitat Conservation Plan, the Coyote Springs Investment Habitat Conservation Plan, and the Virgin River Habitat Conservation and Recovery Program.

2.2.3 Native American Consultation

In recognition of the relationship of American Indian tribes with the U.S. Government, agencies are to consult with tribal governments at an official government-to-government level. The BLM submitted tribal consultation letters on May 12, 2006 to representatives of eight Native American

tribes informing them of the Proposed Action and requesting their input on potential impacts on culturally significant areas. Natives American tribes contacted include the Moapa Band of Paiutes, Las Vegas Paiutes, Ely Shoshone Tribe, Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah, Yomba Shoshone Tribe, Duckwater Shoshone Tribe, Kaibab-Paiute Tribe, and the Shoshone-Paiute Business Council.

The tribes were also invited to participate in a Tribal Coordination meeting on May 18, 2006 in Ely, Nevada to discuss the Proposed Action with representatives from the BLM, LCWD, and the EIS consultant. Representatives from the Ely Shoshone and the Duckwater Shoshone tribes attended. The purpose of the meeting was to present information regarding the Proposed Action and gather comments focusing on traditional cultural issues as they relate to the proposed federal action. A question and answer session followed the presentation. Tribal representatives were encouraged to provide their input by providing oral or written comments. No comments were received during the Tribal Coordination meeting; however, the BLM will continue consultation with the tribes throughout the EIS process.

2.2.4 Nevada State Historic Preservation Office

Federal agencies responsible for planning and implementing undertakings must consult with the appropriate State Historic Preservation Office and other interested parties to determine if the undertaking would affect historic properties, and consider measures to avoid, reduce or mitigate any identified adverse effects. Section 106 consultation required by the National Historic Preservation Act and its implementing regulations (36 CFR 800), and Executive Order 11593 (May 13, 1971) provides direction for protection of cultural resources by federal agencies. The BLM will initiate formal consultation with the Nevada SHPO in accordance with the Nevada BLM Protocol Agreement with the Nevada SHPO.

2.3 Interdisciplinary Team

An Interdisciplinary (ID) Team has been formed to assist in evaluating the environmental issues to be addressed in the EIS. The ID Team composed of resource specialists from various BLM field offices, representatives from cooperating agencies, the Applicants consultants, and the EIS consultant team, will use an interdisciplinary approach in identifying the environmental issues related to the Proposed Action, develop alternatives to be analyzed, and collaborate on key issues to be analyzed in the EIS.

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3.0 SCOPING COMMENT ANALYSIS

A total of 95 responses, containing 228 comments were received. Comments were reviewed, documented, and entered into a database to facilitate organization, sorting, analytical review, and management of comments into topic categories. Each comment document received a unique identification number to track the document throughout the comment analysis process. To identify each comment within the comment document, the body of the text was enumerated to easily identify where the comment was extracted from the document.

Comments were categorized by the driving topic unless the associated topics were of equal importance to the issue being presented, in which case the comment was placed under both comment categories. The comments were further sorted into broader summaries to develop a framework of issue topics to be addressed in the EIS. Individual comments were categorized by primary topic, regardless of the position of the comment towards the topic. The primary issue topics include the NEPA Process (e.g. scoping, consultation, etc.), Social Resources, and Physical Resources.

A summary of comments received during the scoping period is provided in **Appendix A**. The comments are largely reproduced verbatim; however, for efficiency and ease of analysis, some of the comments have been paraphrased or summarized. In all cases, every effort was made to retain the original nature and intent of each comment. While some comments are outside of the scope of this EIS, all comments received during the scoping process are listed equally regardless of applicability or relevance to the Proposed Action or the EIS process. However, only issues or concerns represented in those comments that can be applied directly to preparation of the EIS will be further analyzed. For example, many respondents provided personal statements of opinion or conjecture on the value (negative or positive) of groundwater development; only the issue areas they raised in conjunction with their views are presented.

The following governmental and non-governmental organizations submitted written comments.

Federal Agencies
- U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region IX
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- U.S. National Park Service, Lake Mead National Recreation Area

State or Local Governmental Agencies
- Nevada Department of Agriculture
- Nevada Department of Wildlife
- Nevada Division of State Lands
- Nevada State Historic Preservation Office
- Nevada System of Higher Education

Organizations / Businesses
- Earth Justice
- Nevada Farm Bureau
- Lund Irrigation and Water Company
- Great Basin Water Network
- Irlbeck & Turner Ranches
- National Pony Express – Nevada Division
- Nature Conservancy of Nevada
- Partnership for the West
- Round Mountain Gold Corporation
- Snake Valley Citizens Alliance
- Southwest Center for Biological Diversity
- Toiyabe Chapter of the Sierra Club
- Western Environmental Law Center

3.1 Significant Issues to Be Considered in the EIS

The extent to which public scoping comments will be addressed in the EIS is dependent on several factors. They include, but are not limited to, the following:

- The scope, specificity, or ambiguity, of the issue or comment;
- The degree of speculation that would be required to address the issue; and
- The necessity for such an analysis to facilitate the decision-making among alternatives.

The Council of Environmental Quality regulations require an analysis of impacts of a project on the "human environment." These impacts include effects on natural, human, and cultural resources. Discussions with affected public or agencies, such as those that have occurred through this scoping effort, help to define and evaluate effects of the different alternatives on the human environment. Comments relating to environmental impacts will be considered by the BLM in developing the scope of EIS technical studies. Chapter 3 (Affected Environment) and Chapter 4 (Environmental Consequences) of the EIS will address the issues incorporated into the study. Concerns about the EIS studies and decision-making processes will be considered in refining and modifying these processes throughout the remainder of the EIS preparation.

Based on the issues and recommendations identified during the scoping process, as well as guidance from NEPA, three general categories were identified: NEPA Process; Impacts to Social Resources; and Impacts to Physical Resources. Sub-categories to be considered in the evaluation of the Proposed Action and alternatives are listed below.

NEPA Process – Eight-six comments were received specific to the NEPA process. To the fullest extent possible, federal agencies, including the BLM, "*are required to work according to the policies set forth in NEPA and its implementing regulations*." The EIS must be legally defensible and meet the requirements of all applicable laws and regulations. The EIS will follow the requirements of NEPA, Administrative Procedures Act, CEQ regulations [40 CFR 1500 – 1508], Departmental Manual Part 516 DM 2 and DM6, Appendix 5, and BLM standards outlined in the BLM Handbook H-1790-1.

Social Resources – Fifty-one comments were received specific to concerns about impacts from the Proposed Action or alternatives on the human or built environment. Scoping comments were provided on the following resources: 1) Aesthetics (Including Visual Resources and Noise); 2) Cultural Resources (Including Paleontology); 3) Land Use (Including Transportation, Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, Wilderness Areas, and Other Special Use Areas); 4) Recreation; 5) Socioeconomic Resources; 6) Public Health and Safety; and 7) Environmental Justice.

Physical Resources – Ninety comments were received specific to concerns about impacts from the Proposed Action or alternatives to components of the physical environment. Scoping comments were provided on the following resources: 1) Air Quality and Climate; 2) Biological Resources (Including Endangered, Threatened, Proposed and Candidate Species, Fisheries, Migratory Birds, Range Resources, Vegetation, Noxious Weeds, Wetlands/Riparian Habitat, and Wild Horses and Burros); 3) Geology, Soils, and Minerals; and 4) Water Resources.

Table 3.1 summarizes the number of comments on concerns or issues within each of the topic categories.

Table 3.1
Number of Comments in Each Topic Category

Topic Category	Number of Comments
NEPA PROCESS	
- Consultation and Coordination	9
- Public Involvement / Scoping Process	4
- Need for Additional Studies / Validity of Data	11
- Public Review of Data / Qualification of Technical Team	6
- Project Description / Project Study Area	10
- Methodology for Analysis	7
- Monitoring and Mitigation	7
- DEIS Format / Plain Language	6
- Alternatives	9
- Connected Actions / Cumulative Impacts	17
SOCIAL RESOURCES	
- Aesthetics (including Visual Resources and Noise)	5
- Cultural Resources	3
- Land Use (Including Management Areas, Recreation, and Transportation)	19
- Public Health and Safety	4
- Socioeconomic Resources	17
- Environmental Justice	3
PHYSICAL RESOURCES	
- Air Quality and Climate	5
- Biological Resources	
Endangered, Threatened, Proposed and Candidate Species	10
Fire Management	3
Fisheries	4
Migratory Birds	4
Noxious Weeds / Invasive Species	4
Range Resources	1
Vegetation	2
Wetlands / Riparian Habitat	4
Wildlife / Wildlife Habitat	12
Wild Horses and Burros	1

Table 3.1 Number of Comments in Each Topic Category	
- Geology, Soils and Paleontology (including caves)	5
- Water Resources	
Water Supply and Use	19
Water Rights	5
Hydrogeological Characteristics	7
Water Rights	4

The following section describes how specific comments and key issues identified during the public scoping process will be addressed in the EIS. The proposed level of treatment in the EIS represents the first step in developing the EIS content. The BLM will further review these issues and refine them throughout the EIS process. The Draft EIS will include a rationale for the level of analysis of the various issues.

Primary Issue: NEPA Process - Consultation and Coordination / Cooperating Agencies

- Coordination needed between BLM and other federal, state and local agencies with jurisdiction over various aspects of the Proposed Action; specifically coordination between the States of Utah and Nevada.

Response: *The involvement of governments, resource agencies, the public, and other interested parties and organizations in the NEPA process is solicited via the scoping process. Local, state, and federal agencies may participate in the EIS process according to their jurisdiction and as described in NEPA as they see fit. The USFWS, NDOW, and Moapa Valley Water District have formally requested cooperating agency status for this project. Draft Memorandum of Understanding will be developed between the cooperating agencies and BLM. Consultation with Native American tribes that have cultural interests in the Project Area has been initiated by the BLM and will continue throughout the NEPA process.*

Primary Issue: NEPA Process – Public Involvement

- Consistency of the public involvement with NEPA requirements.

Response: *Public involvement is an important part of the NEPA process. Public input is sought during the scoping process by means of scoping meetings and through written comments. Public input is also requested later in the process as part of the public review and comment period for the Draft EIS. Future notification of opportunities for comment will be publicized pursuant to requirements for public review under NEPA.*

Primary Issue: NEPA Process - Need for Additional Studies / Validity of Data

- Requests for additional data collection and studies to understand baseline environment before project continues.
- Concerns regarding the adequacy of existing data and scientific knowledge; specifically existing water resources data.

Response: *The EIS will analyze impacts of the Proposed Action and alternatives based on the best available data and methods, which will be described and disclosed to the public as required by law and regulation. As part of the EIS development, the BLM will assess the sufficiency and adequacy*

of available information to describe and analyze the baseline conditions and the impacts of different alternatives.

Primary Issue: NEPA Process - Public Review of Data / Technical Team Qualifications

- EIS process integrity, including public disclosure of data and analysis used to prepare the EIS, and qualifications of the technical team and EIS preparers; potential fragmentation of data analysis.

Response: *The BLM is required under law to disclose all data and analysis used to prepare the EIS. The selected EIS contractor has entered into an agreement with the BLM guaranteeing that the EIS will be prepared objectively and with no financial or other interest in the outcome of the Proposed Action. BLM selected the EIS contractor from among competing proposals following a review of company and individual qualifications.*

Primary Issue: NEPA Process - Project Description / Project Study Area

- Fully describe project plan of development including area of impact (identify groundwater basins), pipeline and well locations, construction and operation schedules, projected water volume withdrawals, facility design, construction methods, reclamation activities, project costs (both direct and indirect), and ownership (disclose relationship between LCWD and Vidler Water Company).

Response: *The EIS will be prepared in accordance with NEPA regulations, and will include clear descriptions of the project purpose and need, the proposed action and alternatives, the affected environment/environmental setting, environmental consequences, and mitigation measures.*

Primary Issue: NEPA Process - Methodology for Analysis

- The DEIS should clearly and fully describe existing natural and economic resource conditions; and describe how the BLM will analyze the direct and indirect impacts of groundwater pumping and exportation on these existing and future resources.

Response: *The EIS will analyze the potential impacts of the Proposed Action and alternatives using the best available data and methods, which will be described and disclosed to the public as required by law and regulation. The data and analysis developed will commensurate with the significance of the impact.*

Primary Issue: NEPA Process - Monitoring and Mitigation

- Identification of all monitoring and mitigation strategies (including costs and responsible parties) that will be used to reduce or eliminate impacts to the natural and social environment from implementation of the Proposed Action or alternatives.

Response: *Depending on the results of the EIS impact analysis, mitigation measures, including the need for additional studies or monitoring, may be developed in the EIS.*

Primary Issue: NEPA Process - DEIS Format / Plain Language

- The DEIS should be clearly written, in plain language to ensure that all readers understand the intent of the document.

Response: *The development of the EIS will adhere to the intent of 40 CFR 1502.8, which directs that NEPA documents be written in plain language and use appropriate graphics so that decision-makers and the public can readily understand the intent of the document.*

Primary Issue: NEPA Process – Alternatives

- No Action alternative
- Construction of desalinization facilities in California and piped to Nevada and other western states.
- Following the pipeline alignment authorized under the Lincoln Country Conservation, Recreation, and Development Act of 2004 (Public Law 108-424).
- Alternative facility locations, construction phasing, development and pumping scenarios and management strategies in response to environmental or land management issues.

Response: *The BLM must consider, at a minimum, the proposed action, other reasonable alternatives, and the "no action" alternative. The Draft EIS will include feasible alternatives meeting the purpose and need for the project that represent a range of resource protections and potential environmental impacts, as required by NEPA (40 CFR 1502.14), and other laws and regulations.*

Primary Issue: NEPA Process - Connected Actions / Cumulative Impacts

- Determination of whether the proposed KSV Project and other proposed groundwater development projects (LCLA, SNWA projects), should be included in a Programmatic EIS.
- Evaluation of the cumulative effects of other existing and proposed groundwater development projects; energy development projects, and other projects in the regional area.

Response: *The BLM is required under NEPA to consider three types of actions in the EIS: connected actions, cumulative actions, and similar actions. Connected actions are those where: 1) one action automatically triggers another action, 2) an action cannot proceed unless other actions are taken previously or simultaneously, or (3) the actions are interdependent parts of a larger action and depend on the larger action for their justification. BLM undertook an analysis of the proposed KSV Project, LCLA Project, and SNWA project proposals and determined that they are not connected actions and are therefore addressed within separate EISs. The KSV Project EIS will include an analysis of cumulative effects for resources affected by the Proposed Action and selected alternatives. The analysis will consider cumulative effects of construction and operation of the proposed projects in the project area at a variety of spatial and temporal scales, depending on the resource. Resource impacts will be analyzed in sufficient detail necessary to facilitate decision-making among alternatives. Cumulative actions are actions, which, when viewed with other proposed actions, have cumulatively significant impacts. Similar actions are actions that when viewed with other reasonably foreseeable or proposed agency actions, have similarities that provide a basis for evaluating their environmental consequences together, such as common timing or geography.*

Primary Issue: Aesthetics (Including Visual Resources and Noise)

- Modification to natural landscapes from infrastructure development (i.e. power lines and other above ground facilities).
- Growth inducing impacts, including increased residential development and traffic.

Response: *Wells fields, pump stations, water storage tanks related electrical distribution facilities would have a direct impact on the visual quality of an area. BLM Visual Resource Management (VRM) classes set limits to the amount of contrast that will be allowed in areas between a management activity and the existing landscape. An analysis of visual impacts and noise resulting from the Proposed Action and alternatives will be presented in the EIS.*

Primary Issue: Cultural Resources

- Effects of construction and water development on cultural resources, paleontological resources, and Native American sites and properties
- Identification and protection of archeological sites potentially disturbed by project construction;
- Consultation with affected Native American tribes

Response: *The direct and indirect effects of the Proposed Action and alternatives on cultural resources in the affected environment will be addressed in the EIS.*

Primary Issue: Land Use

- Project compatibility with existing land uses (i.e. recreation, grazing, agricultural use, and protected areas) and management plans.
- Effects of groundwater development and withdrawal on surface water sources and rangeland productivity.
- Effects of water development on local and regional growth.
- Effects of construction of facilities and water development on recreational opportunities and the recreational experience.

Response: *The direct and indirect effects of the Proposed Action and alternatives on existing and future land use in the affected environment, both private and public, will be addressed in the EIS. Existing management plans will be reviewed to determine compatibility with existing plans and actions.*

Primary Issue: Public Health and Safety

- Security measures from vandalism or terrorism on project components (i.e. pipeline, wells, power lines, etc.)
- Mobilization of wind-borne dust containing radioactive particles.

Response: *The direct and indirect effects of the Proposed Action and alternatives on public health and safety, and worker health and safety during construction, will be addressed in the EIS.*

Primary Issue: Socioeconomic Resources

- Effects of induced population growth (both in existing rural and urban areas), and impacts to businesses, lifestyles and values, tax base, infrastructure development, and local economies.
- Assignment of responsibility for mitigation and compensation for any irreversible impacts to groundwater quality and quantity to environmental, economic, and social resources.
- Financial costs and benefits to federal, state, and local governments from project construction and operation.

Response: *The direct and indirect effects of the Proposed Action and alternatives on socioeconomic resources in the affected environment will be addressed in the EIS.*

Primary Issue: Environmental Justice

- Disproportionate project effects on low-income and minority populations

Response: *By Executive Order 12898, environmental justice is considered one of the critical elements of the human environment that must be addressed in an EIS. This Executive Order was designed to focus the attention of federal agencies on the human health and environmental conditions in minority communities and low-income communities. The potential effects of the Proposed Action and alternatives on environmental justice issues will be addressed in the EIS.*

Primary Issue: Air Quality and Climate

- Potential reduction of air quality resulting from impacts groundwater removal on vegetation and induced growth
- Potential increases in particulate levels and mobilization of dust from construction activities.

Response: *The potential effects of the Proposed Action and alternatives on climate and air quality in the affected environment will be addressed in the EIS. The effects of construction and operation of the Proposed Action will be assessed in accordance with relevant federal, state, and local air quality regulations.*

Primary Issue: Biological Resources

- Characterization of terrestrial and aquatic communities and populations potentially affected by project construction and operation.
- Project construction effects (habitat reduction/fragmentation, increased human presence and traffic).
- Impacts from above-ground project components on raptor collisions, electrocution hazards.
- Effects of groundwater withdrawal on viability and extent of groundwater and surface water terrestrial, aquatic, and cave-dwelling species population and associated habitat.
- Identification of biological resource monitoring and mitigation, including assignment of financial responsibility and management, during and after project construction.

Response: *The direct and indirect effects of the Proposed Action and alternatives on biological resources, including threatened, endangered, and candidate species in the affected environment, will be addressed in the EIS.*

Primary Issue: Geology, Soils, and Minerals

- Effects of short- and long-term groundwater withdrawal on cave formation processes, watershed health, and subsidence, fissuring, degradation of hydrological properties, seismic instability leading to earthquakes, and structural damage to basin aquifers.
- Protection of paleontological resources.

Response: *The direct and indirect effects of the Proposed Action and alternatives on geology, soils, and mineral resources in the affected environment, will be addressed in the EIS.*

Primary Issue: Water Resources

- Effects of water development on aquifers present in and down gradient of proposed pumping.
- Effects of water development on the quantity, distribution, and quality of surface water in and down gradient of the proposed pumping areas and the potential to adversely affect current uses of ground and surface waters
- Effects on water rights present in the project area.

Response: *The direct and indirect effects of the Proposed Action and alternatives on water resources in the affected environment will be addressed in the EIS. Although the impacts on water resources from the Proposed Action are appropriate to evaluate in the EIS, the BLM does not have the authority to make decisions regarding water rights. Water rights are subject to state authority under the Nevada State Engineer.*

3.3 Summary of Future Steps

The next formal comment period will open when the Draft EIS is published. The availability of the Draft EIS will be announced by publication of a notice in the *Federal Register*, as well as other media, such as local print and broadcast media. In addition, the BLM will circulate a notice of the availability of the Draft EIS to interested parties included in the project mailing list. Following release of the Draft EIS, there will be a 60-day public comment period and additional public meetings to receive comments on the Draft EIS.

Following the comment period, the Final EIS will be prepared. The Final EIS will consider and incorporate any other comments received during the review period. The availability of the Final EIS will be announced by publication of a notice in the *Federal Register*, at which time a 30-day public review period will commence. The final opportunity for public comment on the EIS will be this 30-day public review period. No sooner than 30 days after publication of the Final EIS, the Secretary of the Interior will issue a Record of Decision (ROD). The ROD would explain all factors, including environmental impacts that the BLM considered in reaching its decision. The ROD will also identify the environmentally preferred alternative, or alternatives. If mitigation measures, monitoring, or other conditions are adopted as part of the BLM's decision, these would be summarized in the ROD, as applicable.

APPENDIX A

SUMMARY SCOPING REPORT

#	Comment ID No.	Appendix A Summary of Comments Received During Public Scoping for the Kane Springs Valley Groundwater Development Project EIS
NEPA PROCESS - CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION / COOPERATING AGENCIES		
1.	1B	The Lincoln County Land Act requires that the states of Nevada and Utah come to an agreement about the sharing of water from this aquifer BEFORE it is can be transported through the pipelines on BLM land. Those negotiations have not yet begun! If anything, BLM should be drilling test wells in several spots over the aquifer in order to establish control and collect data for the negotiations.
2.	7K	An agreement is supposed to be reached between NV and UT before any groundwater is transported through pipelines on public land. So why is this EIS being started before there is any discussion or agreement between the two states on shared groundwater?
3.	8K	Why is any EIS going forward without the required discussions and agreement between Utah and Nevada required in the Lincoln County Development and Wilderness Act of 2004?
4.	11K	The Lincoln County Land Act Development and Wilderness Act of 2004 required an agreement be reached between Nevada and Utah on shared carbonate aquifer water before any groundwater would be transported through pipelines on public lands. Why is the EIS being started before there is any discussion or agreement between the two states on shared ground water? The BLM must set up a coordinating process with both NV and UT state and field offices.
5.	12K	Will the Nevada Department of Wildlife be a cooperating agency in the EIS process? Without NDOW, the BLM and its technical team will be greatly impacted in its ability to address wildlife impact issues. The BLM should implement a mechanism for meaningful involvement by local governments denied Cooperating Agency Status.
6.	13B	Nevada Dept. of Wildlife should be a cooperative agency. White Pine County should be funded to participate.
7.	21B	Have you contacted the Moapa Band of Paiutes to consult?
8.	33B	The SHPO looks forward to consulting with the federal agency as is required in the existing protocol agreement.
9.	30B	Increase cooperation and coordination between agencies at all levels of government and between agencies and users of public lands and encourage local level planning efforts.
NEPA PROCESS - PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT / SCOPING PROCESS		
10.	10K	Due to the complexity of issues, and widely affected areas, the comment period should be extended, and should include ALL groundwater pumping and piping applications and inter-basin transfers located anywhere in the carbonate aquifer and associated alluvial areas. Extensive scientific study of the area should include ecological and environmental issues, as will as social and economic ones.

#	Comment ID No.	Appendix A Summary of Comments Received During Public Scoping for the Kane Springs Valley Groundwater Development Project EIS
11.	11K	BLM must re-issue the project description and re-initiate the scoping process with more complete project information.
12.	12K	We urge the BLM to continue scoping for this EIS while vigorously implementing 40 CFR 1501.2. The inclusion of NDOW in the EIS process is essential, so BLM should resolve any administrative issues preventing NDOW's participation.
13.	13K	Given the technical nature of the DEIS and the need for careful public review and analysis, the DEIS's public comment period should also be extended to a minimum of 120 days.
NEPA PROCESS - NEED FOR ADDITIONAL STUDIES / VALIDITY OF DATA		
14.	2K	If aquifers and flow systems are connected shouldn't we have a clear understanding of how one water project could affect others proposed or currently in existence? Wouldn't a regional flow model as proposed by the USGS in a BARCASS II study be a wise and prudent tool to better understand impacts from various water projects that are occurring in southern and eastern Nevada?
15.	3K	Pumping water from the carbonate aquifer which apparently extends from central Nevada east to central Utah before the studies being conducted by the USGS are complete is questionable. Proceeding with the project should be delayed until all investigations, test wells and proper tests have been completed and definitively show no adverse affects on water levels or re-charge. Any negative result on proper testing should be considered as evidence this project should not proceed and a good alternative in another venue sought out and pursued.
16.	5K	Will the proposed test production wells along the Kane Springs Board be completed and analyzed by the USGS prior to the due date (5/30/06) for completion of the draft water resource report (sec.301 (e)-PL.108-424)?
17.	8B	The crux of these projects is to "plunder" water from north central Nevada to supply developers in Clark Co. and southern Lincoln Co. I don't believe sufficient studies have been conducted addressing the impact of massive water withdrawals and transferring them out of the basin(s). Growth must learn to live within the resources available in the same area as the growth is taking place.
18.	8K	How will the EIS studies cope with the fact that the amount of the water withdrawals are unknown at this time, since the State Engineer has not yet ruled on the proposed amounts, and the expected change of points of diversion that may follow any rulings? Traditionally SNWA has applied for water, then for a change in the point of diversion. How is it possible to conduct a meaningful EIS without knowing for sure where the water will be pumped? And since they have acquired no water whatsoever at this point, the EIS process should be stopped until the precise locations and amounts are known. It seems that the number of monitoring wells is too few. Also, the entire aquifer should be monitored, not just the area closest to the point of diversion.
19.	9K	The NPS presented compelling evidence at a recent NSE hearing that there is no water available for appropriation within Kane Springs Valley. This conclusion is based on the fact that the NSE has already permitted more water rights in CSV and KSV than the amount of water that is recharged to the aquifer naturally in that area. Furthermore, LC&VWC is at the back of the line of a long list of pending applications. Given this information, the

		NPS urges that the BLM exercise caution in the evaluation of groundwater pumping effects associated with the KSVGD Project. At a minimum, development of an extensive water monitoring, management, and mitigation program with well-defined action criteria will be very important for whatever final alternative is selected.
20.	10K	We are concerned that the scientific information available at this time may not provide an adequate basis for the required biological opinion under section 7 of the ESA, a scientifically rigorous impact analysis for the EIS, or for the development of defensible project terms and conditions.
21.	11B	Both EIS need to be addressed thoroughly whether the water can be withdrawn without damaging the environment, the local economy and the welfare of the people, plants and animals (including fish, birds, and all species).
22.	11K	BLM should use the 36 months of the BARCASS study, which is well underway, to collect baseline hydrologic and other resource information, in cooperation with the USGS and cooperating agencies, of the total project area, including data from pump tests if such tests can be agreed on by Nevada and Utah counties as well as the Nevada and Utah State Engineers. Scoping should be reinitiated when this data is available. The Lincoln County Act states that the Secretary of Interior shall grant to the Lincoln County Water District nonexclusive rights-of-way to federal land in Lincoln County, Nevada, for any roads, wells, well fields, pipes, pipelines, pump stations, storage facilities, or other facilities and systems that are necessary for the construction and operation of a water conveyance system. Such facilities would include arterial water pipelines and secondary feeders and transmission lines. But all other permitted facilities are not included in the project description, so how can their impacts be analyzed in this EIS? The BLM must reconsider its piecemeal approach to NEPA in preparing individual EISs for water pipeline projects in the carbonate aquifer and related pipeline projects in eastern and southern Nevada. One programmatic EIS which looks at the potential impacts of all of the projects in the entire carbonate aquifer system is necessary, with individual EISs which study environmental impacts of pumping and exportation in specific basins would comply with NEPA far better than the current fragmented approach.
23.	12K	BLM should use the predictive model developed in the BARCASS Phase II study for assessing impacts of the proposed federal action. It is the only third-party, independent model which will be available on which BLM can base the critical impacts assessment. The BLM should base its EIS on the hydrological data results from the USGS BARCASS study of the carbonate aquifer before judging NEPA disclosure and analysis to be adequate and complete.
24.	27B	Little knowledge exists to define where each flow system gets its total recharge and where all discharge takes place.
NEPA PROCESS - PUBLIC REVIEW OF DATA / TECHNICAL TEAM QUALIFICATIONS		
25.	1B	It is of supreme importance that BLM make available to the public all models and water data used to estimate the impacts of pumping this water. The public, including independent hydrologists, need to see how BLM has determined whether lower water table levels and reduced spring flows come from these projects, from the Tule Desert/Clover Valley Project, and the White Pine County Project. Who will be responsible for mitigation? The primary issue here is the planning concerning water resources. I urge you to move with great care, making sure that all data is as accurate as possible and planning is thorough, and that the process is transparent at every step.
26.	7K	The public needs to see the water data and models which show the water sources and estimated impacts of pumping.

27.	8K	ALL data collected by BLM and other agencies, applicants, and authorities, including Southern Nevada Water Authority, Vidler, and others, MUST be made public and subjected to peer review before any decisions are made.
28.	11K	The BLM must assemble a science team which evaluates the schedule currently envisioned to determine if it is scientifically feasible to answer critical questions of impacts from water export on people and wildlife. The BLM must provide for a peer review of all data and methods for collecting the data as well as for all models used in the EIS. The BLM must provide a peer reviewed, scientific evaluation of the uncertainty in both the data used and models and scientific methods used to calibrate the models. The BLM must include a peer reviewed, scientific evaluation of the impacts of the proposed groundwater pumping for at least 100 years, as impacts of groundwater pumping and export over such a large area of the carbonate aquifer may take time to become evident. The BLM must provide for complete disclosure of all hydrologic and other resource data used in the preparation of the EIS, using the web for public review as data and model results become available. The BLM should use only public data and models in the EIS preparation. All data and models used in the EIS should be peer-reviewed and disclosed on a working website for public review, long before the draft EIS is written and released. Additional science briefing meetings should be held for the public after the BLM's science team has examined existing data and models and made its recommendations on their adequacy, reliability and usefulness to the EIS as well as on the proper schedule for EIS completion. The public should be allowed to present its input to the BLM on these technical issues after review of the science team's recommendations. The Ely BLM is currently preparing 7 EISs, a heavy workload, and other EISs are soon to be initiated. This EIS is being rushed, without the benefit of the USGS BARCASS study of the carbonate aquifer. The EIS contractors are paid by the project proponent, not the BLM, and are under no obligation to comply with NEPA requirements, as is the BLM. But EIS contractors will be under considerable pressure to keep to the published EIS schedule regardless of the adequacy of the scientific data and necessary impacts models. The EIS contractor should be closely supervised by the BLM and remain totally neutral throughout the EIS process. The BLM must disclose the names and qualifications of government, private and contractor scientific reviewers so that the public can determine the independence of the panel assembled to review the science of the EIS.
29.	12K	BLM should disclose, ASAP, the hydrological and biological data and the assumptions underlying any models used in the EIS process. The BLM should provide for regular public update and comment on technical issues deliberated in closed sessions of the "technical team." Public outreach could include by: 1) providing web-enabled interactive public discussion on technical topics; 2) maintaining a website containing technical documents and transcripts of closed meetings; 3) hosting open public meetings on technical issues shortly after each closed technical meeting.
30.	13K	The BLM should disclose to the public, as soon as possible, the hydrological and biological data and assumptions underlying any models that will be used for the DEIS. The BLM's DEIS must also include complete and accurate information.
NEPA PROCESS - PROJECT DESCRIPTION / PROJECT STUDY AREA		
31.	3B	The question I have is what is the water from both projects going to be used for?
32.	5K	What is the relationship between the LCWD and the Vidler Water Company? A Gazette journal news article (4/07/06) indicates there is a legal question on the development water plan to Coyote Springs. Apparently a Water Resource Hearings Officer has questioned the legality of a Rural

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		Nevada county's plans and Vilder Water Company to sell water rights in Kane Spring Valley. The draft EIS should not be issued until these questions are answered.
33.	10K	Identify indirect effects that are a consequence of project development (e.g., groundwater pumping). Identify direct effects that are a result of project construction and operations (e.g., groundwater production wells, water conveyance facilities, and power facilities). The EIS should provide a scientific justification for the geographic extent of the areas and resources subject to project effects. A number of existing scientific reports (e.g., USGS Water Resource Investigation Reports 95-4173 and 91-4146; USGS Professional Papers 1409-D and 712-C) variously describe the extent and connectivity of the regional groundwater flow systems. These reports, among other information, evidence connections between groundwater and surface water resources over a wide geographic area, encompassing a number of basins, surface drainages, and the territory of several states.
34.	11K	The Lincoln County Act states that the Secretary of Interior shall grant to the Lincoln County Water District nonexclusive rights-of-way to federal land in Lincoln County, Nevada, for any roads, wells, well fields, pipes, pipelines, pump stations, storage facilities, or other facilities and systems that are necessary for the construction and operation of a water conveyance system. Such facilities would include arterial water pipelines and secondary feeders and transmission lines. But all other permitted facilities are not included in the project description, so how can their impacts be analyzed in this EIS?
35.	12K	The project description should identify the regional flow systems and the groundwater basins from which water would be pumped, as well as the source of water - alluvial, carbonate or other aquifers or surface water. Why were hydrological basins adjacent to those planned for direct groundwater development, but within the larger regional flow systems (Death Valley, White River, and Great Salt Lake Regional Flow Systems) not included in the project area? We challenge the implied assumption that neighboring basins will not be affected, either hydrologically or biologically, by proposed groundwater pumping and exportation. The project description should identify the dates and locations of well applications and af/y amounts of water expected, as well as the status of any other water rights in the project area, whether Vidler Water Co./Lincoln County water District (Vidler/LCWD) has any certificated water rights, etc. in each groundwater basin in the project area.
36.	13B	These projects affect land and water resources in the White Pine County. These EIS's are premature.
37.	14K	In consideration of minimizing impacts, will gas lines, power corridors, communication lines, roads and water pipelines be in close alignment to minimize affected wildlife and wildlife habitats? Will water and power lines be above or below-ground; there being differential benefits to wildlife and habitat resources depending on site characteristics and values.
38.	30B	There should be a clear discussion on timing of implementation of actions and the ownership of the implementation of the actions.
39.	33B	The EIS's for these water transmission lines should not be limited strictly to right's-of-way as since such a limited analysis will not consider the true scope of potential impacts. Such a limited analysis would also not consider monitoring effects of groundwater pumping and mitigation of these effects such as limiting or stopping pumping when impacts are, or begin to be, detected. A full scale analysis with full consideration of all effects is necessary to adequately address the environmental impacts of these proposed actions.

#	Comment ID No.	
40.	34B	The DEISs should fully document groundwater sources - how, when, and by whom groundwater is used? There should also be documentation of long-term groundwater trends within the applicable groundwater basins, water rights law, water allocation~ process and regulations in Nevada, and the history of water allocation in Kane Springs Valley, Coyote Springs Valley, the Tule Desert, and the Mesquite area. The DEISs should clearly describe existing conditions, including information on existing water supply management and water allocation systems, surface and groundwater quality, drinking water quality and treatment systems, biological resources, and air quality. If applicable, the DEISs should also describe current and historical, litigation, tentative agreements, and the underlying assumptions, water rights, and legal mandates of the proposed water supply projects and alternatives.
NEPA PROCESS - METHODOLGY FOR ANALYSIS		
41.	10K	The EIS should describe the scientific analysis used to determine whether or not prolonged and extensive groundwater pumping will lead to irreversible effects on ecological resources. The EIS should evaluate the effects of the proposed action on the elements of biological diversity present within the project area, including threatened, endangered, sensitive, and endemic species; wildlife and wildlife habitat; terrestrial ecological systems that may be directly affected; and freshwater systems that may be directly or indirectly affected (e.g., wetlands, springs, spring outflows, seeps, and riparian areas). The enclosures included with this letter include maps of the conservation areas, and lists of the elements of biological diversity that occur within these areas.
42.	11K	The use of key species in the EIS is not acceptable, as it omits environmental impacts analysis of the vast majority of fish and wildlife species, all of whom are at risk from the loss of habitat from large-scale, regional groundwater pumping and exportation. The BLM must conduct a thorough analysis of environmental impacts to fish and wildlife in the project area instead of using the inadequate "key" species approach.
43.	12K	Using independent and peer-reviewed data collection methods, the BLM and other local, state, and federal government agencies, private water users, and the project proponents should collect the following baseline data in the project area in Nevada and Utah: water rights status, including recorded water rights, vested water rights, applications for water rights in the project area, water rights needed for reasonable expectations of local growth, historical and current water uses, mapped locations of all springs and seeps, on both public and private lands, mapped locations of wet meadows and other areas with water dependent flora and fauna, test wells for assessing the connectivity between alluvial groundwater and the deeper carbonate-rock aquifer groundwater and for assessing the recharge rates of both aquifers.
44.	13K	The DEIS will need to carefully analyze the direct impacts of the proposed action. This includes analyzing the impacts of both the construction and long-term operation of the wells, pipelines, electrical supply lines and ancillary facilities. Of particular importance/concern are the direct impacts of the proposed action on eastern Nevada's aquifers (valley fill and carbonate), springs, seeps, wetlands, and wet meadows, water dependant vegetation, wildlife populations and habitat (including threatened and endangered species), and existing water rights (including vested rights).
45.	13K	The BLM's DEIS will need to establish the proper baseline upon which to base its impacts analyses and conduct the requisite "trends analysis," i.e., an assessment of the environmental impacts of all activities affecting the various resources over an extended period of time.

46.	14K	What survey protocols will be used? Would both physical and biotic attributes be surveyed as impact indicators? Will surveys be accomplished along all pipeline routes and utility line right of ways and why? How often will these surveys be conducted and why? How long after completion of the projects will the areas be surveyed? Would species specific protocols be adopted such as those for Burrowing Owl (see attached) and for how long?
47.	32B	The EIS and BLM's decision must be based on an adequate inventory of the resources of the public lands that may be affected by the proposed projects.
NEPA PROCESS - MONITORING AND MITIGATION		
48.	1K	Identify mitigation for the 20 foot swath.
49.	8K	How will wild animals dependent on the spring, seeps, and sub-irrigated areas for water and food be affected? Who will monitor their condition? Who will be able to mitigate the loss of their habitat? How will wildlife, habitat, cultural resources, sensitive species, etc. be protected from increased use and damage as access to the surrounding areas is easier?
50.	10K	At a minimum, development of an extensive water monitoring, management, and mitigation program with a well-defined action criteria will be very important for whatever final alternative is selected. The EIS should include a detailed discussion of mitigation measures that could reasonably be undertaken to offset the adverse effects of project construction and operations. There should also be a discussion of mitigation feasibility within the context of the existing and future social, economic, and political environment. The EIS should provide the details of an effects monitoring program, including the nature of the monitoring system (number of wells, construction details, surface gages, etc); nature of the modeling tools and calibration efforts; assessment of boundary conditions; assessment of impacts to water quality and temperature; and methods for estimating perennial yield of the groundwater basin(s). The monitoring program should include identification of triggers that may be detected in advance of the realization of any irreversible effects, and the immediate mitigation steps, including project cessation, to be taken in the event that triggers are tripped. A monitoring strategy should also be developed that addresses the direct and indirect effects of facilities construction and operation, and groundwater pumping on the species and ecological systems of concern listed in the enclosures. The EIS should also identify a robust monitoring program for gauging the effects of pumping from test groundwater wells sufficient to assess the relationship and connectivity between surface water and groundwater resources. If approval to proceed with any part of the project is given, that approval should be conditioned upon a monitoring program designed to detect pending adverse effects upon biological resources, with prompt cessation of all pumping if adverse effects are noted.
51.	11K	What monitoring is necessary to determine impacts from Vidler/LCWD groundwater pumping on public lands and resources? On existing water users? On TES species? On national and state parks, wildlife areas, and BLM special areas? How often must monitoring be done? What kinds of monitoring must be done? Electronic? Site visits? Who will be responsible for monitoring? Who will pay monitoring costs? How will monitoring data be published for public review? Who will evaluate monitoring data to determine the severity of impacts? Will the BLM set impact thresholds beyond which pumping must be reduced or stopped? What are acceptable and unacceptable impacts? What happens if monitoring is not done by the responsible parties? Who is responsible for monitoring impacts on TES species? What are acceptable and non-acceptable impacts for TES species?

#	Comment ID No.	Appendix A Summary of Comments Received During Public Scoping for the Kane Springs Valley Groundwater Development Project EIS
		Can BLM withdraw the ROW permit for the pipeline if monitoring indicates unacceptable impacts in the basins losing water?
52.	12K	Will mitigation for declining flows in springs which support TES species be immediate, rather than held hostage to lengthy legal proceedings about exactly whose groundwater pumping is causing the environmental harm? How will BLM make public up-to-date reports on monitoring and mitigation for the proposed project?
53.	14K	What types of baseline information and monitoring will be appropriate to determine the impact thresholds and trigger effective minimization and/or mitigation measures pre-, during, and post-construction? Will monitoring information be compiled, analyzed, and openly reported concerning impact assessments to wildlife, habitats, and ecosystem health? What measures will be taken to monitor affects of wells and water withdrawals on vegetation and wildlife communities? Will sensitive species and habitats in nearby adjacent watersheds be monitored for affects from water withdrawals? Reasonable and meaningful mitigation is anticipated for incorporation into the EIS. An aspect in determining when and where mitigation is warranted is development of impact safeguards using threshold-based mechanisms which trigger timely, corrective actions at various impact thresholds. Would Watershed Assessments be available to serve wholly at in part as baseline for environmental monitoring purpose? Identification of the aquifer type (deep carbonate, deep alluvial, and/ or shallow alluvial) is critical in understanding the potential impacts to surrounding habitats and species which depend on them. The potential impacts themselves are primarily indirect and cumulative in nature. An informed understanding of the hydrology is fundamental to evaluating impacts and developing meaningful long term mitigation consequential to the projects. For example, 1) Wells drilled into the Clover Mountains may have some effect to the limited existing springs in that area, depending on the sources of the water. The Department is currently working to improve water sources for wildlife in the Delmar and Meadow Valley mountains and Kane Springs Valley to reduce competition with livestock on existing water sources. 2) What measures will be taken to monitor affects of wells and water withdrawals on vegetation and wildlife communities? Will sensitive species and habitats in nearby adjacent watersheds be monitored for affects from water withdrawals? Specific areas include: Pahranagat Valley, Meadow Valley Wash, Halfway Wash, Toquop Wash, and the Upper Muddy River at Warm Springs.
54.	18B	Any road or power line construction has a serious detrimental effect on the plant life and animal environment. The desert doesn't heal well-pioneer trails are still evident after over 100 years since usage.
NEPA PROCESS - DEIS FORMAT / PLAIN LANGUAGE		
55.	5B	The Kane Springs Valley Groundwater Development Project, Open House Scoping Meetings Notice, Project Description Map should be annotated to clearly show that the proposed project lies in T.11S., R.63&64E., MDM, Lincoln County, Nevada. It took an hour of diligent searching and work for me just to determine that with any degree of accuracy. Your maps all need such marginal inscriptions to be added back onto the basemaps, whatever they are; their sources and dates of publication should be clearly stated.

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56.	11K	Maps at the same or smaller scale as maps in the BLM scoping package should be available overlaid with the Congressionally designated utility corridors at additional scoping meetings and on a working website, to provide the public full access to this critical information.
57.	13K	In order to enable meaningful public comment, the BLM's DEIS for the Tule Desert project will need to be well organized, easy to read and understand, and include proper references and citations to all relevant scientific studies and data. While a DEIS may not be expected to reference or rely on every study or opinion, the state of scientific knowledge on a particular subject must be fairly represented in a balanced manner. The BLM's DEIS will need to consider a reasonable range of alternatives. Under NEPA, federal agencies must "study, develop, and describe appropriate alternatives to recommended courses of action in any proposal which involves unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources."
58.	21B	You need better maps.
59.	30B	Decision criteria should be clearly delineated in a bulleted format that details just the highlights and merits (lack thereof) of each Alternative. This exercise will give the reviewer a comfort level as to why the Preferred Alternative was chosen. This exercise trends towards the successful "Choosing by Advantages" (CBA) decision making process employed by the National Park Service. Without this exercise, it will be very difficult for the reviewer to Support any alternative with confidence. All sections should include clear explanations and cross-referencing of what criteria were utilized to arrive at statements and actions. The alternatives should NOT be written in large block paragraph format. The description of each alternative should include bulleted statements that clearly and concisely detail the unique characteristics of the subject alternative as well as an accurate listing of the differences between it and the other alternatives. The use of language such as "same as Alternative B" should be avoided. Each alternative should include the complete discussion, even if it is the same as another. It is too confusing for the reader to flip back and forth between alternatives. The summary section of the two DEIS's should include a concise discussion on process. The reader must be assured of the merits of all the alternatives. For example, the "Choosing by Advantages" (CBA) process that the National Park Service employs to determine the preferred alternative is strongly supported by this agency as a valuable and defendable tool in sound decision making. The DEIS's must adequately explain and justify ***why the preferred alternative is preferred.*** To make the DEIS's more reader-friendly and allow for better informed reviewers and potentially less confusion and questions directed at BLM, all maps should be provided in a consistent format and size. All monitoring sections should include concise discussions on what parameters will be utilized to measure the results and success of any actions. The Preferred Alternative should be located first and prominently, at the very beginning of the summary discussion, and before the other alternatives. Each alternative should have a one line title that distinguishes it from the others.
60.	34B	We recommend the Draft Environmental Impact Statements (DEISs) include a clear description of the basic project purpose and need, project alternatives, potential impacts to the environment, and mitigation for these impacts. Particular attention should focus on an evaluation of the environmental impacts of the proposal and alternatives in comparative form, thus sharply defining the issues and providing a clear basis for choice among options for the decision maker and the public (40 CFR 1502.14). CEQ regulations state that the DEISs should include the "means to mitigate adverse environmental effects." (40 CFR 1502.16(h)). This provision applies to indirect effects as well as direct effects. Increased rates of growth for residential, commercial and industrial purposes, directly or indirectly caused by the projects, constitute effects and should be evaluated in the DEISs. Induced residential, commercial, and industrial growth can adversely affect water quality, wetlands, and other natural resources. These types of

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		indirect effects and appropriate mitigation measures should be fully disclosed in the DEISs.
NEPA PROCESS - ALTERNATIVES		
61.	8K	No pipelines should be permanent, or below ground. Permits should have time limits, with the possibility of renewal only if there are no effects. Once a pipeline is permanently installed below ground it will be next to impossible to force cessation of pumping because of the size of the investment in infrastructure.
62.	10B	These proposals are short term answers to long term affects. Nevada's growing water problems should be addressed properly from now by making agreements with California to build desalinization plants & pipe water from the ocean. After all, that will be our only solution long before this century comes to a close. The present proposals need to be derailed to force Vegas &other communities to plan & invest for the long term. It is unknown whether the underground water tables are interconnect. The affects will make certain areas if Nevada more arid & there is no easy method of replenishing the water tables once they're dry.
63.	10K	The EIS should analyze alternatives, including the no-action alternative. The alternatives analysis should include, notably, whether there are actions that could be taken by the project proponents to obtain water resources from another source. It should also include a thorough exploration of the no-action alternative. Alternative alignments and facility locations, and alternative water diversion methods and locations should be evaluated to determine the extent to which adverse effects could be avoided or, at the very least, minimized. Additionally, analysis of the potential effects of an alternative for a decreased diversion quantity should be considered.
64.	11K	NEPA requires a full range of alternatives to be analyzed in the EIS. The No Action must be more than pro forma and simply dismissed by BLM. One alternative should include all of the current related water projects in the carbonate aquifer. Another should take a hard look at the other water supply options for the proposed Coyote Springs development. These should include: groundwater from other sources than Kane Springs Valley. The range of alternatives should include full build-out, 50% build-out and a development limited by actual water rights approved by the NV State Engineer.
65.	12K	There are no alternatives proposed in the scoping documents, unlike other BLM scoping packets on proposed projects. This is a deficiency in BLM compliance with NEPA requirements. The EIS must contain a range of actual alternatives to the proposed action. These should include a no action alternative and alternatives with various levels of LCLA area development buildout. Minimization and mitigation strategies and best management practices should be included in each alternative. One alternative should follow the pipeline alignment authorized by Congress, not that shown on maps in the scoping documents.
66.	18B	Water conservation should be our first priority. For the last many years it has been a renewal resource due to the drought and no guarantee this won't continue. Somewhere & sometime common sense will have to prevail over guesswork.
67.	20B	Projects of this nature would be unheard of when we delve deeply into (Permaculture) Engineered Housing & Business structures. Permaculture

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		Engineered Housing eliminates groundwater projects. I strongly suggest there be careful consideration of this revolutionary form of development funds these “water projects” would be better directed into Permaculture Retro Fits on existing housing. The overall energy efficiency of Permaculture Engineering is truly a quantum leap beyond what currently exists.
68.	32B	The EIS must include a reasonable range of alternatives including alternatives that will avoid or minimize impacts to rare, sensitive and special status species. The EIS for each of the projects should include at least one alternative that will improve the status of each of the listed species that may be impacted by the projects in order to fulfill BLM’s obligations under the Endangered Species Act (“ESA”) to promote conservation of listed species and work towards recovery of these species. See ESA § 7(a)(1). Similarly, the EIS for each of the projects should include at least one alternative that protects and recovers species identified as sensitive species and/or species of concern.
69.	34B	The selection of the No Action alternative is a critical step in the environmental analysis since it provides the baseline for comparison with other action alternatives. It is EPA's position that the "no action" alterative is not a “no impact” baseline. EPA believes that to interpret the "no action" alternative as having "no impacts" may be inconsistent with National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) regulations. EPA advocates determination of available water supplies and bringing water demands and commitments into alignment with long-term sustainable supplies. To minimize impacts and potential water shortages, we urge BLM to work with the Lincoln County Water District to consider all available tools for providing water supplies and enhancing water management flexibility, supply reliability, and water quality. These management tools should be incorporated into the alternatives, considered in the DEISs. Management tools could include water transfers and exchanges, conservation, appropriate water pricing, water use efficiencies, different operational regimes, market based incentives to reduce water use, water acquisition, conjunctive use, and wastewater reclamation and recycling. We recommend BLM and LCWD consider conservation as a key component of the proposed groundwater development projects and as a condition of project approval. The DEISs should include a discussion of how conservation affects water markets and the need for these groundwater developments, a description of conservation measures, and ways to encourage and implement conservation measures. We advocate development and implementation of water conservation plans, use of conservation performance requirements in the project designs, and strong assurances that certain levels of conservation will be attained. EPA believes it is important that the DEISs for these groundwater development projects evaluate a range of water supply development strategies and alternatives. We recommend Bureau of Land Management and Lincoln County Water District develop alternatives which include strong incentives for water conservation, tiered pricing, conservation goals and performance, monitoring, aid mitigation measures. Other water supply alternatives to consider and evaluate are water transfers, conjunctive use, and water conservation and reuse. Again, we urge an approach which focuses on demand management and effective, efficient use of sustainable water supplies. The DEISs should include an in-depth discussion of pricing and how it will be utilized by the LCWD to balance water demands and water supply. All reasonable alternatives should be considered including those which may be beyond BLM's current statutory authorities, pursuant to NEPA (40 CFR 1502.14(c)). Furthermore, there should be a clear discussion of the reasons for the elimination of alternatives which were not evaluated in detail.
NEPA PROCESS - CONNECTED ACTIONS / CUMULATIVE IMPACTS		
70.	1B	Because of these water issues, these projects will have effects on a very wide region, far exceeding the immediate neighborhood, or the specific visual impacts of the proposed developments, or the impacts on local animals and vegetation. There must be a meaningful mitigation process for these widened effects. Once those houses are built and occupied, it will be extremely difficult to cut off the water supply even if the aquifer is

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		dwindling and springs in White Pine County are dried up. Infrastructure (highways, etc) can be planned for and built, but these water impacts must be addressed.
71.	1K	The collective impact of all water extractions from the valleys must be considered as a whole in terms of water loss and impact on natural resources
72.	2K	Given our precarious situation, I believe a comprehensive, cumulative look at water use throughout the southern & eastern regions in Nevada should occur, and these questions should be answered before granting rights of way for any water projects in this area.
73.	7K	How is the BLM going to assess the cumulative impacts from groundwater pumping and piping from all the proposed projects in Nevada and Utah which will all be pumping from the same carbonate aquifer shared by both states? Who will be responsible for mitigation? How is BLM going to study impacts? Has anyone considered the impacts of proposed groundwater pumping and exportation on natural resources: wildlife habitat, cultural resources, weeds, sensitive species, desert plant communities, recreation, access to public lands, increased ORV use, and the ensuing damage to public lands and resources, hunting and fishing, and the economic lifeblood of NV – tourism?
74.	8K	With several pumping and pipeline projects already identified but not yet being studied or scheduled for study, along with the current EIS projects under way, how can BLM determine the larger picture of consequences of all kinds without simultaneously studying all the projects all over the carbonate aquifer areas? NEPA requires that the BLM consider actions that are similar or connected in one EIS. Yet not all of the SNWA pipeline projects are included in the project description. Shouldn't BLM do a cumulative impact analysis of all of these related pipeline projects, in order to comply with this NEPA requirement?
75.	10K	Identify connected actions that would be triggered by implementation of the proposed project, or would not proceed unless actions are taken previously or simultaneously, or are interdependent parts of a larger action and dependent upon the larger action for their justification. Identify cumulative actions that, when viewed with this action, have cumulatively significant impacts. For example, there are various other water importation projects currently proposed or envisioned for southern and eastern Nevada that should be considered in a cumulative effects analysis.
76.	11K	The BLM must reconsider the project scope and determine whether a programmatic EIS must be prepared on all related water pipeline proposals or disclose the way the BLM will be able to do a cumulative impact analysis of all the related projects. What impacts will the proposed project have on the health of watersheds in the project area in Nevada and Utah?
77.	12K	With the current piecemeal approach, how can BLM, or anyone else, determine which project is causing which effect? All groundwater basins within the 3 larger regional flow systems should be included as a part of the project study area. In addition, since many basins in White Pine County and Lincoln County and Utah are in the adjacent Colorado River Regional Flow System and targeted for groundwater development by other water purveyors in the near future, we strongly urge that the project area be expanded to include all basins in the Colorado River Flow System in both states.

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78.	13B	Projects are connected actions and should be one EIS. It is wrong to separate these projects from the SNWA pipeline EIS. They are connected actions and should be scoped and studied together.
79.	13K	There are a number of individual projects that should be considered in one, single EIS. These projects include, but are not limited to: (1) the Tule Desert project (also known as the "Lincoln County Land Act project"); (2) the Three Lakes Tikaboo project; (3) the Virgin/Muddy River surface water development project; (4) the Lake Mead pipeline EIS; (5) the Coyote Springs development project; and (6) the Southern Nevada Water Authority's Clark, Lincoln, and White Pine Counties groundwater development project. The DEIS must take a hard look at the cumulative impacts of the proposed action. To determine the appropriate geographic boundaries for a cumulative effects analysis, the BLM's DEIS should first: (1) determine the area and resources (i.e., the aquifers) that will be affected by their proposed action (the "project impact zone"); (2) make a list of resources within that area or zone that could be affected by the proposed action; and (3) determine the geographic areas occupied by those resources outside the immediate area or project impact zone.
80.	15K	The USFWS requests that the EIS evaluate the cumulative effects of groundwater pumping in Kane Springs Valley, Coyote Spring Valley, and the Muddy River Springs Area on surface water flows and aquatic species during the environmental documentation process, and consider alternatives and incorporate conservation measures that would avoid or minimize, to the maximum extent practicable, any adverse effects to water resources and associated aquatic species of these areas. Actions that must be consider in the cumulative impacts analysis include, but are not limited to, 1) groundwater pumping in Coyote Spring Valley and infrastructure related to the CSI residential development; 2) groundwater pumping and infrastructure relating to SNWAs Muddy River pipeline and pertaining to the state Engineer's Order 1169 study; and 3) all other known permits or application for water rights that may be granted in the foreseeable future within these basins.
81.	21L – 14K	The potential direct, indirect and cumulative impacts that the proposed project may contribute to regionally are germane in this context as are those by similar or related industrial and municipal developments. Among these are the proposed Toquop Energy Project, development of LCLA lands, Kane Springs Valley Groundwater and Utility Development, Coyote Springs Investment and MX well development, Southern Nevada Water Authority (SNWA) pipelines, and various proposed minerals projects.
82.	22B	Why are there four different EIS's (SNWA, Lincoln Co, Kane Springs, Toquop) all analyzing groundwater pumping from the same or possibly connected aquifers? Is this improper segmenting of analysis when the CEQ regulation requires one comprehensive analysis of connected actions? What cumulative effects would be caused by this growth inducing pumping, such as habitat fragmentation, invasive weeds, air pollution, noise and loss of desert tortoise habitat?
83.	26B	BLM should take a worst cause scenario approach considering the maximum amount of water that may be transferred in the region including Clark Co. Basin (eg. Three Lakes & Tikaboo Valleys). The Nye County Basin's such as Railroad Valley and the White Pine, northern Lincoln County basics such as Spring Valley and the Utah region that might be impacted by draw down of the aquifers in Nevada. The BLM should consider the impacts of these two projects in the context of all of the proposed water transfers and transportation projects in the region impacted by Southern Nevada Water Authority Cooperative Water Project. Other projects include SNWA pipelines including the western extension into Nye County, any pipeline Lincoln Co./ Vidler may propose to access Garden, Cave, Coal, Patterson, Hamblin Village etc., and what ever project may be developed to

		transfer water held under existing water rights by speculators such as developers Harvey Whittemore who is proposing to transfer the water from Lake Valley to Coyote Springs. If the longer distance transfers Lincoln Co. and Whittemore are considering are to be piggy-backed on the SNWA pipeline, then the full capacity of the pipeline has to be included.
84.	27B	The accumulated effect of these ground-water withdrawals together with the many other planned withdrawals together with the many systems, and adjoining flow systems must be considered. The Kane Springs Project will have great impacts to Highway 93 and State Route 168.
85.	30B	The proponents should carefully consider and discuss all impacts these projects will have on natural, cultural and recreational resources including impacts to the unique visual resources of Lincoln and Clark counties. The discussions should emphasize cumulative impacts and detail measures being taken to focus impacts on areas already affected by infrastructure (i.e. power lines and utilities).
86.	33B	Due to the vast range of potential negative impacts of both the Lincoln County and Northeastern Nevada, the Nevada Department of Agriculture requests that the EIS's for Lincoln County Pipeline and the SNWA pipeline analyze the entire range of cumulative effects of these pipelines. Cumulative effects include, but are not limited to, effects of groundwater pumping on northern Nevada groundwater sources springs and agricultural wells; effects of pumping on groundwater sources necessary for livestock and wildlife; effects of power lines to sage grouse; effects of groundwater pumping to T&E species such as the Devil's hole pupfish; effects of groundwater pumping on northern NV native vegetation, short and long term.
87.	34B	Full disclosure of direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts is important in assuring decisions are based on understanding of impacts and tradeoffs (40 CFR 1508). The DEIS should document existing conditions; explain the changes which have occurred (e.g., pre-project and past impacts). Indirect effects may include growth-inducing effects related to induced changes in the pattern of land use, population density or growth rate, and related effects on air and water and other natural systems, including ecosystems." (40 CFR 1508.9(b)). The DEISs should adequately document cumulative impacts, including past, present and reasonably foreseeable actions. This analysis should include a description of the Lincoln County Land Act (LCLA); other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable LCLA actions; Toquop Energy Project; and other proposed master-planned developments and other land and water development projects. The DEISs should evaluate the direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts of the proposed groundwater development projects on the sustainability of the environmental resources of Kane Springs Valley, Coyote Springs Valley, the Tule Desert, and the Mesquite area. Consider long-term impacts on surface and groundwater quality, quantity and sustainability; regional infrastructure and water supplies; wetlands, seeps, and springs; and fish and wildlife habitat. Post cumulative effects may have greatly influenced the "existing conditions" and should be documented in the DEISs. These effects may represent adverse historical impacts which may be perpetuated under the action and no action alternatives. Furthermore, it may not be sufficient to establish compliance with certain environmental protection laws (such as the Endangered Species Act and Clean Water Act (CWA)), where the status quo may reflect unacceptable conditions and trends resulting from ongoing activities, including water diversions and groundwater pumping. Nor will "current conditions" provide adequate guidelines for gauging desired levels of environmental restoration and enhancement. Information in the DEISs should assist in establishing the possible issues with current conditions and defining possible restoration and enhancement goals.
AESTHETICS *(Including Visual Resources and Noise)*		

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88.	11K	What impacts will the proposed project have on aesthetic values of these rural areas? Nevada rural areas?
89.	26B	Concerns regarding the effects of infrastructure including disturbance, but also visual impacts especially associated with powers transmission lines.
90.	26B	What are the impacts to the environment in the areas where the development will occur such as air pollution caused by long term large scale construction and light pollution extending into the still pristine night sky of the Great Basin?
91.	30B	New development should utilize dark sky lighting (see www.darkskv.org). There should be no light and glare impacts to adjacent public and private lands.
92.	30B	The proposed DEIS's should include a defendable discussion on cumulative and incremental impacts to high quality Class 1 and Class 2 VRM areas. What is BLM's policy on Visual Resources management? Much of the impacted area consists of VRM Class 1 and Class 2 areas and should be protected. Are existing VRM classes as proposed in the ELY RMP DEIS, and existing in the adopted RMP a snapshot in time that only portray existing conditions, subject to change at any time? Or do high quality VRM classes represent strong preservation policies that are intended to provide assurances to the public about protection of valuable visual resources? Visual resources should not be expendable upon application of a high priority project. This discussion should be included in the two DEIS's with rational justifications for any changes and logical mitigation measures to maintain the visual resources of the impacted areas. All new development should be camouflaged through careful siting and use of earth- tone/compatible colors.
CULTURAL RESOURCES		
93.	1K	Wells and any developed facilities should be placed away from cultural and key wildlife resources
94.	11K	What impacts will the proposed project have on Native American tribes in eastern and southern Nevada, and west Utah? Native Americans occupied eastern and southern Nevada and west Utah for thousands of years. How will the proposed project impact Native American cultural resources and sites? What impacts will the project have on petroglyphs and pictographs in the project area (e.g. increased vandalism of cultural sites)?
95.	16B	I am concerned about cultural resource preservation, particularly petroglyphs, pictographs, middens. These and the wildlife habitat should not be compromised just to provide water resources for private development.
96.	31B	We anticipate that the EIS documents that are prepared for the proposed projects will include appropriate disclosure of direct and indirect impacts to Native Americans and Native American resources, and documentation of consultation efforts with affected tribes, where necessary.
LAND USE (*including Recreation, Transportation, and Special Management Areas)*		
97.	1K	Consider Coyote Springs Investments responsibility for managing OHV and other recreational use along the right-of-way.

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98.	3B	Concern I have is the pumping of that much water and its impact on area agricultural business.
99.	6K	What are the impacts on the highways?
100.	8K	How will the transportation of nuclear waste along I-15 and US 95 be affected by the increased traffic on these highways, and how will new areas of development affect the nuclear waste transportation? These issues are not independent of each other. What will traffic impacts be on Hwy 93 and I-15 from construction activities and increased traffic from new residents and who will pay for road widening? How will existing roads handle increased traffic congestion, and who will pay to upgrade the roads to handle future needs for repair, resurfacing, expansion, etc., which will also require water to complete?
101.	8K	What will be the overall affect on agriculture - a necessary enterprise if we are to eat?
102.	11K	What impacts will the proposed project have on rural and urban tourism and recreational opportunities? Many Las Vegans currently hunt, fish, camp, and hike in Lincoln and White Pine Counties, but may lose these recreational opportunities if state and federal parks and wildlife areas are dried up or damaged by falling water tables from Vidler/LCWD pumping/exporting. What impacts will the proposed project have on Great Basin and Death Valley National Parks, and on Lake Mead National Recreation Area? Nevada has established a number of State Wildlife Management Areas in the project area, including Key Pittman, Wayne C. Kirch, Railroad Valley and Overton WMAs. What impacts will the proposed project have on each WMA? Eastern and southern Nevada and west Utah are the sites for some unique and valuable National Wildlife Refuges, including Ash Meadows, Fish Springs, Desert, Pahranagat and Moapa Valley NWRs. Most are water-based and contain a large number of endemic species. What impacts will the proposed project have on each refuge? What are current and projected levels of park visitors? What impacts will the proposed project have on national park areas, state parks, State Wildlife Management Areas, National Wildlife Refuges, including loss of water, increasing erosion, and increased or decreased visitor use, need for and cost of park management and facilities, etc.? BLM has some outstanding natural areas, ACECs, and recreational areas on public lands in the project area: Desert Tortoise ACECs, the swamp cedars in Spring Valley, Red Rock National Conservation Area, mesquite natural area near Pahrump, and a number of wilderness areas and wilderness study areas. What impacts will the proposed project have on each special BLM areas?
103.	11K	What is the footprint of the CSI project supported by the exported ground water? At full build-out? At 50% buildout? At buildout supported by 5000 af/y of (unapproved) ground water from Kane Springs Valley? How many units of residential, commercial and other development are projected by CSI? Golf courses? Very little information about the CSI development proposal, the recipient of the exported groundwater was provided during the scoping process by the BLM.
104.	11K	The proposed pipeline will follow the main road into Kane Springs Valley, access to public lands used lightly or very heavily for a number of purposes. Access will be disrupted during the construction period and perhaps afterwards by security needs. What impacts will the proposed project have on public access to public and private lands during and after pipeline construction?

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105.	11K	What impacts will the proposed project construction and the new residents who would be supported by exported water have on rural counties, on traffic impacts on Highway 93 and Interstate 15?
106.	11K	What impacts will the proposed project have on public access to public and private lands during and after pipeline construction? How will the proposed project impact existing rights-of-way uses (other pipelines, telephone and power lines, etc)?
107.	12B	Please do not allow blocking of access to Wildcat Wash or the road in the Arrow Canyon.
108.	13K	The BLM needs to analyze the impacts of the proposed action on the neighboring Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC), the Pahranagat National Wildlife Refuge, Desert National Wildlife Range, and the Arrow Canyon Wilderness.
109.	17B	I am concerned with the effect of the lowering the water table around Pahranagat National Wildlife Area and Key Pittman WMA. I recommend a no action alternative.
110.	21B	How will the projects affect land and water resources that have adapted to current conditions?
111.	23B	I am interested in the preservation of our natural resources for the health of agriculture and industry of central Nevada.
112.	26B	The original plan of Vidler and Lincoln Co. was to promote land exchanges which would free up agricultural land for more of the same sort of development that currently exists. The 2004 legislation designates 90,000 acres to be sold in Lincoln Co., which will probably be municipal rather than agricultural. Certainly local water development has the advantage over export that impact on the resource would be more gradual and easier to address. The competition for water resources demands that we make an intelligent choice to protect the future of rural Nevada. This can't be done until we know what land may be available for what use.
113.	27B	This would only be of concern to the Pony Express if it prevented us from making our historical ride each June.
114.	30B	The proponents should carefully consider and detail all land use implications and detail possible affects to multiple use stakeholders. The proponents should ensure that all local plans and policies are reviewed, recognized and considered in a public and transparent manner. The project should be reviewed by the Mojave Southern Great Basin Resource Advisory Council as well as the relevant local planning commissions and public land use advisory committees. Any action should consider ancillary impacts to surrounding areas including newly established wilderness areas. The correlation between the wilderness experience and what happens outside its boundaries should be clearly understood. No less important are user experiences on surrounding public lands.
115.	34B	The DEISs should provide detailed descriptions of these master-planned developments, fully evaluate cumulative impacts, and explain the rationale for not evaluating linked water supply projects and master-planned developments together in a single environmental document.

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PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY		
116.	1K	Consider Coyote Springs Investments management of any law enforcement issues.
117.	1K	What would be the effects on human health?
118.	11K	The proposed pipeline and related facilities, such as well-fields, pump stations, etc. have security needs in this post-9/11 era. Yet no such security measures were disclosed in the scoping process. Will large areas be fenced? Will the buried pipeline be fenced? Surveillance cameras? Armed security patrols of the pipeline corridor and other facilities? Closed areas? Closed roads? What impacts will security measures for the proposed project have on public use and enjoyment of public lands?
119.	11K	Mobilization of wind-borne dust containing radioactive particles.
SOCIOECONOMIC RESOURCES		
120.	1K	Identify impacts on residents in the valley from which water is taken.
121.	6B	I am opposed to this entire project, believing it to be detrimental to the environment wildlife, and the people of the Great Basin, I can only see that it benefits the Las Vegas Valley District and Mr. Whittemores Coyote Springs Project, along with increased tax revenues for Lincoln County.
122.	6K	What are the true effects of this water transfer on already existing communities? What will the project's impact be on the quality of life of existing residents of Clark and Lincoln County?
123.	7B	Cities are essentially not healthy places to live. Why must we encourage urbanization and penalize rural areas? We hear developers saying "we are being deprived of our right to develop our land." Is there in fact a right to stomp on others rights? Were they forced to purchase the land in the first place? Sure we can go buy a thousand acres of farmland and then say we want to make it into homes and make millions. But is it tight if we thereby cause water shortages and deprive other farmers, etc.? Even if it is just "desert land, what "right have we to alter it? Our ***speculations*** were just that, not rights.
124.	7K	Creating a huge new development in a remote area with no services so a few developers can make money is ludicrous. How many new roads, schools, hospitals, fire departments, police garbage services etc, would be needed and who will pay for this needed infrastructure and facilities?
125.	8B	Building 85,000 homes and 16 golf-courses on land that does not have the ground water resources to support it, is criminal. Using tax dollars to have the BLM prepare an EIS for the proposed development is equally insane. Unless development is entirely sustainable it shouldn't even be considered.
126.	8K	Who will bear the expense of building fire stations, police departments, garbage services, schools, etc.? How will rural infrastructure and economies be affected, considering the proposal to build isolated cities in the desert with no means of making a living, no services, etc? Will taxes be raised for everyone in the affected counties to pay for the services these developments will require? How will the few communities already in existence be

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		affected? Will taxes be raised due to the new growth in previously undeveloped areas of rural Nevada? If so, will the impact be fairly distributed so growth pays for itself? Some type of bonding system should be established to insure that restitution of damages of all kinds will be completely funded.
127.	11K	What impacts will the proposed project and its new residents have on Nevada urban county and city governments, budgets, services needed and ability to deliver, revenues and costs, schools, courts, fire and public safety services, emergency services, health care, roads, parks, taxes, real estate values, crime, traffic problems, overall quality of life, etc. What impacts will the proposed project have on current and future growth in rural Nevada and Utah counties? What impacts will the proposed project have on current and future growth in urban Nevada and Utah? What impacts will the proposed project including at full build-out have on rural communities, businesses, families and lifestyles, values, populations, and economies, both current and future in Lincoln, White Pine, Nye, Clark Counties, Nevada, and Tooele, Juab, Millard, Iron, Beaver, and Washington Counties in Utah? What impacts will the proposed project have on rural county and area governments, budgets, services needed and ability to deliver, revenues and costs, schools, courts, fire and public safety services, emergency services, health care, roads, parks, taxes, real estate values, hospital overall quality of life, etc. for the very remote Coyote Spring Valley development?
128.	11K	What is acceptable mitigation for economic losses by ranchers, farmers, small businesses, local and tribal governments? Do affected rural counties and areas have adequate financial resources to protect their interests in the EIS process? What is acceptable mitigation for loss of population, opportunities for growth in rural communities, and rural quality of life?
129.	11K	How much will the proposed Vidler/LCWD project cost? Costs should include any financing costs and the time period for repayment. Who will pay these costs?
130.	12K	Creating a new town in this remote area will require huge amounts of water. How much water will be needed at full buildout? 50% buildout and at a development level supported by actual approved water rights? How much will the water cost? Who will bear the costs? What water rates will be charged at **Coyote Springs** to purchase and transport water? To operate and maintain water systems? Estimates of project costs should include all costs, not just construction costs. These would include financing costs, monitoring and mitigation costs.
131.	12K	A decrease in agricultural income from declining water levels in irrigation wells and springs and surface water and resulting increases in costs for deepening wells and/or pumping costs may have drastic effects on local county school district budgets and provision of community services and infrastructure. Please consider these impacts over the next 50 years if the proposed action is implemented.
132.	12K	With the uncertainty over the economic and environmental impacts of massive groundwater pumping and removal from Lincoln, White Pine and Utah counties as well as the costs of monitoring and mitigation over 50 years, the Sierra Club recommends that BLM require a bond in a substantial amount to cover these costs.
133.	15K	The EIS must consider the impacts of induced growth in the Coyote Springs Valley. Impacts associated with urbanization of Coyote Springs Valley include, but are not limited to, loss, degradation and fragmentation of the Mohave Desert and desert tortoise habitat, increased recreational use of

		surround sensitive resources, such as nearby wilderness areas, the Desert National Wildlife Refuge, and BLM land within currently designated Areas of Critical Environmental Concern for the desert tortoise; and a net increase in pollutants such as oil, grease, pesticides, nutrients, and pharmaceuticals that could enter Pahranagat Wash and downstream waters.
134.	26B	Socio-economic impacts include the effects of quality of life in the developing areas in southern Lincoln Co., Mesquite, Moapa, and metropolitan Las Vegas where populations are projected to reach 5 million. Here the issues are public safety, health, education, traffic with associated costs. The cost of pipelines hundreds of miles to rural areas is a significant factor and represents a loss of opportunity to pursue better alternatives such as desalinization. Concerns regarding the effects of the rural quality of life in places like White Pine, Nye, and Lincoln Co., where the traditional agricultural life style with its emphasis on family values and community is threatened as speculators take over the land and water resources.
135.	29B	This is a short term solution that will result in long term problems- increase desertification, eventual population exceeding ability of land to support.
136.	30B	The projects should limit new development of infrastructure including power lines and roads to existing corridors. New development should be done in a focused manner in existing utility corridors. Use of existing right-of-ways should take precedence over the establishment of new corridors.
ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE		
137.	12K	The project area includes many low-income families both in rural areas and in urban areas.
138.	26B	The effects of the rural quality of life in places like White Pine, Nye and Lincoln Co., where the traditional agricultural life style with its emphasis on family values and community is threatened as speculators take over the land and water resources.
139.	34B	The DEISs should describe the measures taken by BLM to fully analyze the environmental effects of the proposed federal action on minority communities and present opportunities for affected communities to provide input into the NEPA process.
AIR QUALITY AND CLIMATE		
140.	11K	What impacts will the project have on urban air quality? Las Vegas is already out of compliance with many federal and state air quality requirements. Will air pollution be worse with commuter traffic from Las Vegas to Coyote Springs during construction and afterwards?
141.	11K	What impacts will the proposed project have on rural air quality? What impacts will the proposed project have on air quality in the project area? Will toxic dust storms similar to those on Owens Lake, California, be created in areas of vegetation dying from groundwater table decline? Will the proposed project, especially in the construction phase, mobilize radioactive dust in disturbed soils deposited by above-ground nuclear testing at the Nevada Test Site and elsewhere in Nevada decades ago? Will cancer rates increase in downwind areas from the proposed project construction activities?
142.	26B	What are the impacts to the environment in the areas where the development will occur such as air pollution caused by long term large scale

		construction and light pollution extending into the still pristine night sky of the Great Basin?
143.	32B	The EIS should also address recent scientific data which shows that climate change may already be causing adverse impacts to plant and animal communities in this and other arid regions. These impacts much be evaluated in conjunction with the other direct, indirect and cumulative impacts to the environment due to the proposed projects.
144.	34B	The DEISs should provide a detailed discussion of air quality standards, ambient conditions, and potential air quality impacts for Kane Springs Valley, Coyote Springs Valley, the Tule Desert, the Mesquite area, and their associated air basins. Cumulative and indirect impacts should be fully evaluated.
BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES -ENDANGERED, THREATENED, PROPOSED, CANDIDATE, AND OTHER SENSITIVE SPECIES		
145.	10K	The EIS should address the effects of prolonged and extensive groundwater pumping on the ecological systems and species of concern. The EIS should evaluate the effects of the proposed action on the elements of biological diversity present within the project area, including threatened, endangered, sensitive, and endemic species; wildlife and wildlife habitat; terrestrial ecological systems that may be directly affected; and freshwater systems that may be directly or indirectly affected (e.g., wetlands, springs, spring outflows, seeps, and riparian areas). The Nature Conservancy is concerned with the possible effects of the Kane Springs project on freshwater ecological resources along the Muddy River and Meadow Valley Wash. We are particularly concerned with any adverse effects the project may have on the endangered Moapa dace, and other endemic aquatic species that occur in the Muddy Springs and Muddy River, endemic fishes in the Meadow Valley Wash, and the suite of birds that depend upon riparian vegetation and open water for breeding, feeding, and sheltering. The Nature Conservancy encourages the BLM to conduct a detailed analysis of the possible long-term impacts of the proposed project on the diversity of rare and unique biological resources occurring in the Moapa Valley and supported by reliable flows from the Muddy Springs, and in Meadow Valley Wash. The analysis should include identification of avoidance measures, including consideration of alternatives to groundwater development in this area.
146.	11K	What impacts will the proposed project have on Utah Sage Grouse and its habitat in Nevada? Utah?
147.	11K	What impacts will the proposed project have on each of the TES species in the project area in Nevada and Utah? Who is responsible for monitoring impacts on TES species? What are acceptable and non-acceptable impacts for TES species?
148.	11K	The long-term and cumulative impacts to the ecosystem as a whole, desert tortoise survival, and critical habitat due to the proposed extraction of groundwater must be examined. Impacts to other species listed under the ESA must also be thoroughly addressed in each EIS as well as impacts to sensitive species and species of concern.
149.	15K	The Mojave desert tortoise occurs throughout the southern extent of the proposed project area in Lincoln County. The project could result in direct mortality and/or displacement of desert tortoises; habitat destruction, deterioration, and fragmentation; increased predation risk from common ravens; construction-related introduction and spread of invasive, non-native plants, specifically red brome and Sahara mustard, which alters the fire ecology

		of the Mojave desert ecosystem and provides poor forage for tortoises; and indirect effects associated with human population growth and incursion into desert tortoise habitat, including but not limited to increased risk and spread of disease, predation by feral or domestic dogs, illegal collection, and increased recreational use of desert tortoise habitat, especially as it relates to OHV. The analysis should take into consideration the change in the environmental baseline for desert tortoise and its habitat resulting from the extensive wildfires of 2005.
150.	15K	The USFWS is concerned with the potential impacts of the project on the banded Gila monster, a species listed under the Nevada Natural Heritage Program as sensitive, and protected under Nevada State law.
151.	15K	The USFWS is concerned that the project may impact several plant species listed as sensitive under the Nevada Natural Heritage Program including the Las Vegas buckwheat and bear poppy, a rare species known to occur in the proposed project area, and threecomer milkvetch and sticky buckwheat also known to occur either within or adjacent to the proposed project area, which are species listed as critically endangered by the State of Nevada (NRS 527.260-.300).
152.	15K	The USFWS is concerned about potential impacts to species inhabiting the thermal springs, riparian, and wetland areas of the upper Muddy River from groundwater pumping in up-gradient areas. The USFWS request that potential impacts to sensitive aquatic species (e.g. Moapa White River springfish, Virgin River chub, and Moapa specked dace) be analyzed in the EIS.
153.	32B	The environmental baseline must take into account the current status of all of the of the rare, sensitive, threatened and endangered species in the project area that may be directly or indirectly affected by the proposed projects as well as the cumulative impacts to such species. Impacts to species listed under the ESA must also be thoroughly addressed in each EIS as well as impacts to sensitive species and species of concern. The EIS for each of the projects must identify and analyze direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts to the desert tortoise and its critical habitat. This must include a detailed analysis of how changes in water resources and hydrology may destroy or adversely modify critical habitat and inhibit recovery of the species.
154.	34B	The EPA recommends evaluating Endangered Species Act and CWA compliance, requirements, and possible reallocation of water for environmental compliance as part of the water supply development projects.
BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES - FIRE MANAGEMENT		
155.	11K	What impacts will the project have on fire frequency and occurrence as groundwater pumping dries up vegetation over large areas of desert valleys in eastern and southern Nevada and in Utah?
156.	14K	NDOW is concerned that the subject project avoid compromising landscape stabilization and rehabilitation undertaken on 100's of thousands of acres consequential to extensive fires and flooding in 2005. The potential direct, indirect and cumulative impacts that the proposed project may contribute to regionally are germane in this context as are those by similar or related industrial and municipal developments. Among these are the proposed Toquop Energy Project, development of KLA lands, Kane Springs Valley Groundwater and Utility Development, Coyote Springs Investment and

		MX well development, Southern Nevada Water Authority (SNWA) pipelines, and various proposed minerals projects…. Should the project proceed, the Department would consider merits of the means and methods to complement and accelerate burn area / project impact rehabilitation programs and installation of strategically placed water access along the pipeline for future fire suppression needs.
157.	15K	The USFWS is especially concerned that project-related activities, including groundwater drawdowns, could facilitate the incursion or spread or non-native, invasive plants in the Coyote Spring and Kane Springs valleys, thus altering the fire ecology of the area. The USFWS ask that measures be incorporated into the project design to minimize the spread and/or introduction of invasive plan species, including limiting the project footprint to the maximum extent practicable and providing for successful restoration of any disturbed area.
BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES - FISHERIES		
158.	10K	In addition to the ecological systems and species present within the conservation areas mapped and described in the enclosures, we [The Nature Conservancy] are also concerned with possible effects of the project on other water-dependent ecological systems and species in southern and central Nevada.
159.	11K	What impacts will the proposed project have on fish species, populations, and their habitats in the project area?NDOW is currently developing a comprehensive conservation strategy for wildlife in Nevada. How will the proposed project affect the conservation strategy, especially on the need to provide water-based habitats for Nevada fish and wildlife, in eastern and southern Nevada?
160.	15K	The USFWS request that potential impacts to rare aquatic macroinvertebrates (e.g. springsnails, caddisflies, beetles, true bugs, and crustaceans) that could be affected by the proposed action be analyzed in the EIS. Species known from the upper Muddy River Area include, but are not limited to graded tryonia, Moapa Valley springsnail, Moapa pebblesnail, and Pahranagat naucorid bug. The USFWS requests that the EIS include measures to protect the springs and macroinvertebrates during project planning and implementation.
161.	32B	The short- and long-term impacts of groundwater pumping on fish and riparian vegetation communities must be identified and analyzed before either of these massive groundwater pumping projects goes forward.
BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES - MIGRATORY BIRDS		
162.	8K	How will migratory species be affected? How will mitigation for these species be provided?
163.	11K	Migratory bird species rely on watered areas in eastern and southern Nevada for resting and refueling. What are the migration corridors and oasis areas? What impacts will the proposed project have on migratory birds there? Resident bird species also depend on habitat in eastern and southern Nevada. What areas are important for birds? What impacts will the proposed project have on important bird areas?
164.	15K	The USFWS request consideration be given to burying all lines to the greatest extent possible. Additionally, the USFWS request that above-ground lines follow the April 2005 Avian Protection Plan Guides prepared by the avian Powerline Interaction Committee. Transmission lines will likely

		increase the density of raptors and corvids in the project area by providing additional perch and nesting habitat. Common ravens are known predators of young desert tortoise, and the potential increase of ravens in desert tortoise habitat will need to be addressed in the analysis for the EIS.
165.	15K	The USFWS is concerned about potential impacts the proposed project may have on migratory birds throughout the project area. Infrastructure development may result in direct take of birds and/or active nests, which is in violation of the MBTA. The USFWS recommends land clearing or surface disturbance be conducted outside the avian breeding season to avoid potential destruction of bird nests or young, or birds that breed in the proposed project area. If this is not feasible, it is recommended a qualified biologist survey the proposed project area prior to land clearing or surface disturbance. If nests are located, or if other evidence of nesting is observed, a protective buffer should be delineated and the entire area avoided to prevent destruction or disturbance to nests until they are no longer active. The USFWS is concerned about potential impacts the proposed project may have on migratory birds in the Meadow Valley Wash. The Meadow Valley Wash has been designated as an Important Bird Area (IBA) by the Audubon Society. It is one of 37 IBAs that have been designated throughout the State of Nevada. The potential loss of surface water flow due to drawdown and alteration of hydrological regimes is identified by the IBA program as an extreme threat to this IBA, and should be fully analyzed during the environmental documentation process.
BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES -NOXIOUS WEEDS/INVASIVE SPECIES		
166.	1K	Consider Coyote Springs Investments management of weeds and any law enforcement issues.
167.	8K	What changes will occur in the native vegetation? Will invasive species find a foothold and change the nature of the ecology of the areas affected? How is it possible to mitigate such an occurrence?
168.	15K	The USFWS is especially concerned that project-related activities, including groundwater drawdowns, could facilitate the incursion or spread or non-native, invasive plants in the Coyote Spring and Kane Springs valleys, thus altering the fire ecology of the area. The USFWS ask that measures be incorporated into the project design to minimize the spread and/or introduction of invasive plan species, including limiting the project footprint to the maximum extent practicable and providing for successful restoration of any disturbed area.
169.	16K	What impacts will the proposed project have on the invasion and spread of noxious weeds, especially from soil-disturbing construction activities and long-term vehicle and road use in maintaining facilities, in the project area?
BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES - RANGE RESOURCES		
170.	11K	What impacts will the proposed project have on livestock grazing and ranching operations?
BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES -VEGETATION		
171.	11K	What would be the effects of the pipeline on (native) vegetation? What impacts will the proposed project have on soils, crusts and vegetation communities in the project area, including west Utah?

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172.	15K	The USFWS request that the EIS include a comprehensive description of the water and soil requirements of native versus non-native riparian vegetation, and the ability of the native vegetation to persist and successfully reproduce under the conditions ultimately created by on-going and reasonably foreseeable groundwater development in the project area. The USFWS requests that the EIS evaluate the potential for lowered water tables resulting in stunted growth and/or drying of phreatophytic vegetation. In riparian areas, this could affect the aquatic environment, including water temperature, primary productivity, and left litter/debris input.
BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES -WILDLIFE / WILDLIFE HABITAT		
173.	1K	Identify all natural resources and their use and dependence on water. Identify impacts of water loss on distribution and population of key wildlife and plant species.
174.	2B	I would like to see animals and birds getting access to any water developed. They have rights to have a drink too. Can you see that that happens?
175.	4B	I am concerned about the loss of water resources for wildlife and wildlife habitat.
176.	6B	I am opposed to this entire project, believing it to be detrimental to the environment wildlife, and the people of the Great Basin, I can only see that it benefits the Las Vegas Valley District and Mr. Whittemores Coyote Springs Project, along with increased tax revenues for Lincoln County.
177.	8K	How will wild animals dependent on the spring, seeps, and sub-irrigated areas for water and food be affected? Who will monitor their condition? Who will be able to mitigate the loss of their habitat?
178.	11K	The biodiversity of eastern and southern Nevada is linked to springs, creeks, lakes, wetlands, and rivers, most of which scientists believe are supported by the carbonate aquifer in this arid desert region. What impacts will the proposed project have on the region's biodiversity? How will the proposed project affect the conservation strategy, especially on the need to provide water-based habitats for Nevada fish and wildlife in eastern and southern Nevada? What impacts will the proposed project have on resident wildlife species populations and habitats? What alternative would have the least negative impacts on fish and wildlife and their habitats in eastern and southern Nevada and western Utah? What impacts will the proposed project have on the ecological integrity of ecosystems in eastern and southern Nevada, and west Utah?
179.	12K	The USGS has announced a project, entitled *Recoverability And Vulnerability of Desert Ecosystems*, which is designed to conduct basic scientific research on ecological processes within the Mojave Desert Ecosystem and to use this knowledge to provide land managers with scientific understanding and tools needed to conserve and restore threatened desert landscapes in the Mojave Desert. We request that the BLM incorporate this USGS project into the pipeline EIS process for the affected Mojave Desert groundwater basins. The BLM should use wildlife conservation plans developed in Nevada and Utah for specific species, including Nevada's Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy, the Nevada Partners in Flight Bird Conservation Plan, and specific Sage Grouse Population Management Unit conservation plans in White Pine and Lincoln Counties, in the EIS process to assess the wildlife values, assess project wildlife impacts, and develop monitoring and mitigation in the project area. The BLM has proposed actions to reverse declining ecosystem health in the Great Basin. How will the proposed action affect BLM's program goals and objectives?

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180.	15K	The USFWS request that the EIS include an analysis of potential impacts associated with the proposed Project on loss of foraging and roosting habitat for bat species in the Muddy River area.
181.	15K	Indirect impacts that need to be addressed in the EIS include, but are not limited to: 1) changes to vegetation communities, habitat fragmentation, increased predation rates, and other factors that decrease the chances of survival of local wildlife population. The USFWS requests the EIS include an analysis of impacts to terrestrial mammals dependent on springs and spring-fed wetlands which include, but are not limited to, coyotes, badger, mountain lion, bobcat, and kit fox. Concerns for terrestrial wildlife from construction of the infrastructure associated with the proposed Project, which includes loss and/or degradation of habitat, habitat fragmentation, direct mortality, and other impacts that decrease or diminish survival and population persistence, at least at the local scale. Wildlife may alter their behavior, distribution, and density near linear corridors, and dispersal and/or migration patterns may be disrupted. Bighorn sheep and other species may be negatively influenced by the construction, operation, and maintenance of infrastructure facilities in key dispersal/migration corridors.
182.	26B	BLM must consider the affects on natural vegetation, noxious weed encroachment. Loss of habitat including riparian areas and springs and the effects on wildlife.
183.	29B	Both of these projects appear to be designed to extract amounts of water that will greatly negatively impact wildlife and wildlife habitat.
184.	34B	We recommend the DEISs evaluate direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts to fish and wildlife in Kane Springs Valley, Coyote Springs Valley, the Tule Desert, and the Mesquite area. The DEISs should evaluate the ability to restore or enhance fish and wildlife habitat and wetlands, seeps, and springs, which may have been affected by water diversions, groundwater pumping, and by changes in flows, timing, and water quality as a result of these projects.
BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES -WETLAND AND RIPARIAN HABITAT		
185.	11K	Riparian areas are critical to the survival of wildlife in the project area. What impacts will the proposed project have on riparian areas?
186.	15K	Because large arroyos and other major drainages are known to occur in the area where ground disturbing activities are proposed, the USFWS recommends the BLM contact the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers regarding the possible need for a permit. Alteration of major drainages and arroyos within the proposed project area may have adverse effects on Mojave Desert species that are dependent on these systems.
187.	15K	The USFWS request that potential impacts to aquatic resources (thermal springs, wetlands, and riparian areas) that could be affected by the proposed action, be analyzed in the EIS.
188.	32B	The EIS must identify and analyze the inevitable direct and indirect impact that the loss of water will cause to fish and the riparian vegetation communities that depend on these surface water resources as well as to other species that depend on these resources. The short- and long-term impacts of groundwater pumping on fish and riparian vegetation communities must be identified and analyzed before either of these massive groundwater pumping projects goes forward.

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BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES -WILD HORSES AND BURROS		
189.	11K	How will the proposed project impact wild horses and their habitat areas, including scarce desert watering holes and springs on which horse survival depends?
GEOLOGY, SOILS, AND MINERALS		
190.	8K	What will the impacts to the caves and cave systems in the carbonate aquifer areas that will be pumped, and also to those downstream of the pumping?
191.	11K	What impacts will the proposed project have on soils, crusts and vegetation communities in the project area, including west Utah? We do not know how removing so much ground water will affect the basin, basin subsidence, minor earth quakes, and dangerous conditions with large hazardous cracks in Basins and how long it will take to replenish the ground water. Have the people in Vegas move to Ely or Eureka if they want water.
192.	11K	How does geology, including faults, impervious layers, and other factors, affect the groundwater flow through the carbonate and alluvial aquifers, recharge and discharge areas and rates in the project area?
193.	11K	What impacts will the project have on paleontological resources?
194.	11K	What impacts will the proposed project have on existing caves and cave formations in the project areas? On bat species utilizing caves?
WATER SUPPLY AND USE (SPRINGS, SEEPS, WELLS, IRRIGATION AND M&I WELLS)		
195.	1B	How will the BLM determine whether reduced spring flows or water table levels come from the Kane Springs Valley Project, the Tule Desert/Clover Valley Project, or the White Pine County Projects and who is responsible for mitigation?
196.	2K	If it is true that Nevada is the driest state in the nation and if it is true that drought patterns could continue to worsen due to global warming or the earth's natural cycles, shouldn't we be taking a careful look at water supplies regionally before making any final decisions on water projects? Shouldn't we also be considering how we are doing with sustaining and maintaining the water we currently use in Southern Nevada? Should Las Vegas be allowed new sources water when they haven't exhausted all of the conservation options available to free up existing water sources? Instead of raiding rural counties for their water, shouldn't we be saving water in rural counties for reserves in hard times? If drought continues to plague us, what steps are being taken to ensure that citizens throughout the state will have water for their basic living needs?
197.	6K	When water is developed, it should be shipped to areas that are already developed- not sprawling boom towns located in the middle of nowhere.
198.	7B	Once you take the water out of the ground, how can it be put back? Really?

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199.	8K	Impacts to springs, seeps, and sub-irrigated areas in the entire carbonate aquifer must be inventoried and studied to determine impacts. How will this be done, and who, will be responsible for monitoring? Who will determine and enforce mitigation should the water table be lowered?
200.	9K	The NPS believes that large-scale pumping ground-water in this system would cause depletion of discharge from Rogers Spring and Blue Point Spring, as well as base flow in the Muddy and Virgin Rivers. The NPS has significant concerns that groundwater pumping associated with this project could potentially contribute to cumulative up-gradient effects that would lead to spring flow and stream flow depletion within Lake Mead NRA.
201.	11K	How will exported groundwater be introduced into CSI's existing water delivery system? What are the current sources of water for urban M&I uses in Coyote Springs? What other water supply options for Coyote Springs Valley are being currently pursued by CSI? What are the anticipated water conservation programs in Coyote Springs and how much water will be conserved?
202.	11K	What are the current surface and groundwater uses for irrigation, domestic and municipal uses, and springs, seeps, creeks, rivers, and wetlands in the project area and how much water is used? What are the sources of water for these uses? What baseline information is available on spring flows in the project area and what additional information is needed before the Vidler/LCWD pipeline project is implemented?
203.	12K	What water resources in Utah could be impacted by groundwater pumping in Nevada? Please quantify the impacts, including amounts and timing. What water resources on National Forest lands in Nevada and in Utah could be impacted by groundwater pumping in the project area, including springs, wetlands, riparian areas, creeks, and caves, especially those dependent on seeping groundwater to create or maintain cave formations? Pumping and removing groundwater from groundwater basins in the project area will have enormous impacts on ecosystems and ecosystem functions in both the Great Basin and in the Mojave Deserts, since current levels of water use are resulting in declining spring flows and levels in domestic and irrigation wells in the project areas. How will the proposed project comply with or violate Nevada State Water Plan policies?
204.	14K	Wells drilled into the Clover Mountains may have some effect to the limited existing springs in that area, depending on the sources of the water. The Department is currently working to improve water sources for wildlife in the Delmar and Meadow Valley mountains and Kane Springs Valley to reduce competition with livestock on existing water sources.
205.	15K	The USFWS request that the EIS evaluate the potential impacts to water resources in areas down- and up-gradient of sites to be developed including regional springs within the affected flow systems. Issues that need to be addressed include, but are not limited to 1) the ecological impact of decreased discharge, surface-water flow, groundwater levels, and evapotranspiration rates; 2) changes in groundwater and surface water temperatures; 3) decreased recharge rates; 4) changes in groundwater gradients and flow directions; 5) reduction in pressure gradients and changes to head pressures in springs; 6) potential changes in water quality; and 7) other effects to thermal springs. The USFWS request that the analysis in the EIS include the potential that redistribution of groundwater pumping in Coyote Springs valley to up-gradient sites, including LCWD wells in Kane Springs Valley may occur in the future.

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206.	19B	The University and Community Colleges and Nevada State College Board of Regents is now in the process of Assessing and Inventorying all of their properties in Nevada- it is important to know what is planned for Nevada Groundwater Development and Utility Right of Way Projects.
207.	22B	Would this proposed pumping affect in stream flows in any surface waters, including Beaver Dam Wash and/or the Virgin River? How much groundwater can be removed before other beneficial uses such as natural springs are affected? Have water conservation and reclamation measures been maximized and enforced as conditions precedent to new pumping?
208.	23B	My concerns are for the water resources and their management within each geologic basin of the state.
209.	24B	How is this going to affect the level of water in my well? It is a residential well and it is located in the Mt. Wilson Area within 1.5 miles of Squaw Knoll. Can these projects possibly contribute to turning Lincoln Co. for parts there of into another Owens Valley?
210.	27B	Large quantities of water discharge out of the White River Valley, Pahranagat Valley, and Muddy River Springs Area, as low temperature geothermal springs. The constant steady flow characteristics of these springs suggest a constrained reservoir phenomenon, the boundaries and geologic dimensions are unknown. Will the project interfere with any or all of these springs?
211.	29B	If the project is intended to allow for increased development this is an extremely unsustainable strategy. The existing population depends upon the groundwater. This increase in pumping will exceed nature's ability to recharge the groundwater.
212.	32B	The EIS for each of the projects must adequately assess the impacts to perennial, seasonal, and ephemeral surface water resources including, but not limited to, springs, seeps, creeks, and rivers.
213.	34B	Identify sensitive aquatic sites such as wetlands, seeps, and springs. Outline past and potential beneficial uses of these areas, and disclose potential impacts from the proposed projects. The DEISs should address the need for measurement and management of the combined resources of surface and groundwater supplies to stabilize supplies over the long term in the project areas. The DEISs should document the historical and anticipated (e.g., in alternatives) relationship between surface supplies and groundwater. Of specific concern are potential impacts to third parties, surface and groundwater water quality and quantity, and groundwater pumping effects such as subsidence and groundwater overdraft. EPA believes water supply commitments should be tailored to reflect long-term sustainable supplies reasonably expected to be available under varying conditions (e-g., wet versus dry yeas). We advocate an approach which is focused on efficient use and management of these water supplies. The quantity of allocated water supply should be based on the availability of long-term sustainable supplies and not on desired needs, demands, or potential additional supplies. We recommend LCWD avoid water supply commitments that exceed reasonably foreseeable sustainable supplies.
WATER RIGHTS		
214.	7B	We hear developers saying "we are being deprived of our right to develop our land." Is there in fact a right to stomp on others rights? Were they forced to purchase the land in the first place? Sure we can go buy a thousand acres of farmland and then say we want to make it into homes and make

#	Comment ID No.	Appendix A Summary of Comments Received During Public Scoping for the Kane Springs Valley Groundwater Development Project EIS
		millions. But is it tight if we thereby cause water shortages and deprive other farmers, etc.? Even if it is just "desert land, what "right have we to alter it? Our speculations were just that, not rights.
215.	8K	We are concerned about how the Lincoln County Groundwater Project might impact our wells and water availability at our Mt.Wilson home.
216.	11K	What are the private and tribal water rights in the project area? What are the federal and state water rights in the project area? What are the vested water rights in the project area?
217.	15B	We don't understand how you can consider application for a pipeline right of way from LCWD when they have already sold their water rights and have a disclaimer against transporting water to any of these sites. Why not let the person or organization that owns the water and intends on using it put it for the pipeline right of way. [Note: Copy of Sale Agreement Attached]
218.	21B	Who has the water rights associated with the project?
HYDROGEOLOGICAL CHARACTERISTICS		
219.	1B	I am extremely concerned about the deep carbonate aquifer that will be tapped by both these projects. The project must be certain to be sustainable over a period of at least 150 years. There are several existing safeguards for this. However, in starting the EIS process at all, the first one has been ignored.
220.	8K	What will the physical aspects of water withdrawal be? Will there be subsidence and/or other effects? How will this affect recharge of the aquifer? The entire network of withdrawals within the carbonate aquifer needs to be studied.
221.	11K	How much of the Kane Springs ground water flows into the Colorado River?
222.	11K	How much groundwater is stored in the carbonate and alluvial aquifers in the basins in the project area? What are the recharge and discharge areas and rates for alluvial and carbonate aquifers in the project area? What are the connections between the carbonate and alluvial aquifers in the project area? How does groundwater flow through the carbonate aquifer, where, and at what rates in the project area? How does geology, including faults, impervious layers, and other factors, affect the groundwater flow through the carbonate and alluvial aquifers, recharge and discharge areas and rates in the project area? How much groundwater flows from Nevada into Utah and at what rates and locations in the project area? How much groundwater flows from Utah into Nevada and at what rates and locations in the project area? What will the drawdowns of the groundwater table and existing wells and springs be from various levels of groundwater pumping and exportation by Vidler/LCWD in the project area and the entire carbonate aquifer area)? How long will it take for Vidler/LCWD pumping/exporting impacts to occur to existing users and springs in the project area and the entire carbonate aquifer? At 5, 10, 25, 50, and 100 year intervals? What are the effects of proposed groundwater pumping on upsystem areas? How will pumping affect the head and storage of water upsystem? At what pumping rates will flows be reversed? Where? What are the effects of Vidler/LCWD pumping/exporting of groundwater on the quantity and distribution of surface water? On existing users of surface water?

#	Comment ID No.	
223.	12K	Will recharge rates for the carbonate alluvial aquifers be affected by changes in vegetation cover from groundwater pumping and exportation i.e., losses of vegetation due to declining water tables from groundwater pumping and exportation? What is the timing of the groundwater pumping? Different levels of pumping annually may have different environmental impacts, both in amount and timing. Pumping during a drought may exacerbate impacts. What is the estimated perennial yield in each of the groundwater basins in the project area? What is the estimated sustainable or safe water use in each basin? Who would determine safe water use in each basin? Will the hydrological model used in the EIS assume that the regional flow systems and groundwater basins are currently "in-balance" where "input equals output?"
224.	21B	How large is the aquifer? What is the aquifer's recharge rate? Now and projected after pumping
225.	27B	While many wells have been drilled into the carbonate system (oil wells, future monitoring wells, exploratory wells) very few are being pumped or allowed to flow. If one considers that the total carbonate system is in balance, then any withdrawal will have an impact, but where is not predictable.
WATER QUALITY		
226.	11K	Will pumped groundwater need to be treated by Vidler/LCWD or CSI to meet water quality standards for M&I uses in Coyote Springs Valley? What are the effects of Vidler/LCWD pumping/exporting of groundwater on surface water quality? What is the current water quality of groundwater in the project area? At what pumping rates will saltwater incursions occur? Where?
227.	12K	How will monitoring and mitigation be coordinated across 3 states potentially affected by the proposed groundwater pumping and exportation? What impacts on water quality will the proposed pumping cause?
228.	21B	What is the water quality in the project area?
229.	34B	The DEISs should discuss the proposed groundwater development projects' compliance with State and local water quality management plans and State-adopted, EPA-approved water quality standards. The proposed action should be fully coordinated with the appropriate State Water Quality Control Agency to ensure protection of water quality and maintenance of beneficial uses. Discuss specific monitoring programs that are in place or will be implemented to determine potential impacts on surface, groundwater, and drinking water quality and beneficial uses. Evaluate whether maintenance and protection of water quality can be guaranteed. The DEISs should describe the quality of the deep and shallow groundwater which would be extracted and surface waters which may be affected. Other water quality issues which should be addressed in the DEISs include potential impacts to in-stream beneficial uses, drinking water sources and systems, and sensitive resources such as endangered species. The DEISs should provide information on any efforts underway to address surface or groundwater quality problems. Other issues that should be evaluated are potential impacts on groundwater infiltration and surface flows from runoff, septic tank or wastewater treatment facilities, and landscape or agricultural irrigation seepage caused by the new developed water supply. Evaluate the potential of the proposed projects to cause adverse aquatic impacts such as increased siltation and turbidity in surface water sources; changes in water quality and quantity; changes in dissolved oxygen, and temperature; and habitat deterioration. Include a discussion on the potential effects on return flows and in-stream flows.

APPENDIX B

FEDERAL REGISTER NOTICE OF INTENT

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[NV–040–5101–ER–F851; NVN–79734; 6–08807]

Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement and Initiate the Public Scoping Process for Lincoln County Water District Proposed Water Production Wells, Water Transmission Pipeline, Electric Lines, and Communication Lines in Southwestern Lincoln County; NV

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement and Initiate Scoping.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to Section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended, notice is hereby given that the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Nevada State Office and Ely Field Office, will be initiating the preparation of an environmental impact statement (EIS) and conducting public scoping meetings to analyze the proposed Kane Springs Valley (KSV) Groundwater Development Project, which will include production wells, a water transmission pipeline with lateral pipelines, electric lines, and communication lines. The purpose of the project is to develop and convey water from Kane Springs Valley to private land in the Coyote Springs Valley.

DATES: The scoping comment period will commence with the publication of this notice in the **Federal Register** and will end on May 1, 2006. Comments on the scope of the EIS, including concerns, issues, or proposed alternatives that should be considered in the EIS must be submitted in writing to the address below and will be accepted throughout the scoping period. There will also be public meetings during the 30-day scoping period. The dates, times, and locations of the public meetings will be announced through the local news media.

ADDRESSES: Please mail written comments to the BLM, Ely Field Office, HC 33 Box 33500, Ely Nevada 89301, (fax (775) 289–1910). Comments submitted during this EIS process, including names and street addresses of respondents will be available for public review at the Ely Field Office during regular business hours 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. Individual respondents may request confidentiality. If you wish to withhold your name and address from public review or disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comments. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by law. All submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or business, will be made available for public inspection in their entirety.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Penny Woods, BLM Nevada State Office, (775) 861–6466. You may also contact Ms. Woods to have your name added to the EIS mailing list.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The KSV Groundwater Development Project, which is being proposed by the Lincoln County Water District (LCWD), would be located in southwestern Lincoln County. The proposed project would develop and convey groundwater in Kane Springs Valley to private land (formerly known as the Aerojet land) in the Coyote Springs Valley. The volume of water to be transported through the proposed facilities would be approximately 5,000 acre-feet per year.

The proposed facilities include 7 groundwater production wells (16″ diameter), 4-mile long water transmission pipeline (24″ diameter), and lateral pipelines (12″ diameter) to connect the transmission pipeline to the production wells. The pipelines and wells would be located along or near the Kane Springs Road. The proposed width of the permanent right-of-way for the transmission pipeline and lateral pipelines is 20 feet. During construction of the pipelines, a temporary width of 60 feet would be needed. Electric and communication lines would be located within the permanent right-of-way for the pipelines. Access roads approximately 12 feet in width would be needed from the Kane Springs Road to each well site. Each well site would require a temporary construction area of 100 feet × 200 feet.

The facilities would be generally located within and/or across the following public lands about 65 miles northeast of Las Vegas:

Mount Diablo Meridian

T. 11 S., R. 63 E.,
Sections 1, 11, 12, 14 and 15.
T. 11 S., R. 64 E.,
Section 6.

A map of the proposed project is available for viewing at the Bureau of Land Management, Ely Field Office, 702 North Industrial Way, Ely NV 89301.

Dated: March 27, 2006.

Amy Lueders,

Associate State Director, Nevada.

[FR Doc. E6–4707 Filed 3–30–06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310–HC–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[NV–040–5101–ER–F852; NVN–79742; 6–08807]

Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement and Initiate the Public Scoping Process for Lincoln County Water District Proposed Water Production Wells, Water Transmission Pipeline, Electric Lines, and Communication Lines in Southeastern Lincoln County; NV

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement and initiate scoping.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to Section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended, notice is hereby given that the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Nevada State Office and Ely Field Office, will be initiating the preparation of an environmental impact statement (EIS) and conducting public scoping meetings to analyze the proposed Lincoln County Land Act (LCLA) Groundwater Development Project, which will include production wells, a water transmission pipeline with lateral pipelines, electric lines, and communication lines. The purpose of the project is to develop and convey water from the Tule Desert area to land sold by the BLM under the LCLA, approximately 2 miles north of Mesquite, Nevada.

DATES: The scoping comment period will commence with the publication of this notice in the **Federal Register** and will end on May 1, 2006. Comments on the scope of the EIS, including concerns, issues, or proposed alternatives that should be considered in the EIS must be submitted in writing to the address below and will be accepted throughout the scoping period. There will also be public meetings during the 30-day scoping period. The dates, times, and locations of the public scoping meetings will be announced through the local news media.

ADDRESSES: Please mail written comments to the BLM, Ely Field Office, HC 33 Box 33500, Ely Nevada 89301, (fax (775) 289–1910). Comments submitted during this EIS process, including names and street addresses of

respondents will be available for public review at the Ely Field Office during regular business hours 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. Individual respondents may request confidentiality. If you wish to withhold your name and address from public review or disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comments. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by law. All submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or business, will be made available for public inspection in their entirety.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Penny Woods, BLM Nevada State Office, (775) 861–6466. You may also contact Ms Woods to have your name added to the EIS mailing list.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The LCLA Groundwater Development Project is being proposed by the Lincoln County Water District (LCWD) and would be located in southeastern Lincoln County. The proposed project would develop and convey groundwater in the Tule Desert and Clover Valley hydrographic basins to land recently sold by the BLM that is approximately 2 miles north of Mesquite, Nevada. This private land comprises the LCLA development area and consists of approximately 13,000 acres. The volume of water to be transported through the proposed facilities would be approximately 23,824 acre-feet per year. The water would be used to support development in the LCLA development area.

The proposed facilities include approximately 8 groundwater production wells (16 inch diameter) located in the Tule Desert and Clover Valley hydrographic basins, a 23-mile long water transmission pipeline (24 inch diameter), and lateral pipelines (12 inch diameter) to connect the transmission pipeline to the productions wells. The proposed width of the right-of-way for the transmission pipeline would be 30 feet with a temporary width of 60 feet during construction. The proposed width of the right-of-way for the lateral pipelines would be 20 feet with a temporary width of 60 feet during construction. The productions well site rights-of-way would be 100 feet × 100 feet with a temporary construction area of 100 feet × 200 feet. Access roads approximately 12 feet in width would be needed from existing roads in the Tule Desert area to each well site.

The proposed production wells would be located in the well field area authorized for the Toquop Energy Project, which is a 1100 MW gas-fired power plant. The proposed transmission pipeline would follow the same alignment as the approved water pipeline for the power plant. From the power plant, the transmission pipeline would proceed to the LCLA development area.

Electric lines, communication lines, and a natural gas pipeline would be located within the proposed transmission pipeline right-of-way. A pipeline bringing reclaimed water from the LCLA development area to the already authorized Toquop Energy Project site would also be in the proposed right-of-way.

The facilities would be located within and/or across the following public lands north of Mesquite, Nevada:

Mount Diablo Meridian

Tps. 6 to 12 S., Rgs. 69 and 71 E., various sections.

A map of the proposed project is available for viewing at the Bureau of Land Management, Ely Field Office, 702 North Industrial Way, Ely NV 89301.

Dated: March 21, 2006.

Amy Lueders,

Associate State Director, Nevada.

[FR Doc. 06–2932 Filed 3–30–06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310–HC–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

Notice of Proposed National Natural Landmark Designation for the Irvine Ranch Land Reserve, CA

AGENCY: National Park Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of proposed National Natural Landmark designation.

SUMMARY: The National Park Service has evaluated and determined that the Irvine Ranch Land Reserve, located forty-five miles south of downtown Los Angeles, in Orange County, California appears to meet the criteria for national significance and proposes to recommend the site for designation as a National Natural Landmark. The public is invited to comment on this recommendation. The proposal will be considered by the National Park System Advisory Board at a meeting to be held on June 8, 2006 at Zion National Park, in the Majestic View Lodge, 2400 Zion Park Blvd., Springdale, Utah.

DATES: Written comments will be accepted until May 30, 2006.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be sent to Steve Gibbons, National Natural Landmarks Coordinator, North Cascades National Park, 810 State Route 20, Sedro Woolley, Washington 98284, or to his Internet address: *Steve_Gibbons@nps.gov.*

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Steve Gibbons at 360–856–5700, extension 306.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Irvine Ranch Land Reserve represents significant biological resources of Mediterranean shrublands, including extensive areas of chaparral and coastal sage scrub associations. These chaparral and coastal sage scrub areas present one of the largest extant areas of this association remaining in the South Pacific Border Province. It is the presence of these large and relative undisturbed ecosystems and their inherent biological diversity that provide the uniqueness of this area. In commensurate with its biological significance the Irvine Ranch Land Reserve geologically represents a remarkably unique, long time-range stratigraphic succession that shows the linkage between tectonic framework, provenances, sedimentology, paleoenvironments, paleontology, paleoclimate, landscape evolution and geologic history. In this regard it is not only outstanding, but represents one of the most critical time intervals and locations in the evolution of the South Pacific Border Province.

Information on the National Natural Landmarks Program can be found in 36 CFR Part 62 or on the Internet at *http://www.nature.nps.gov/nnl.*

Dated: March 28, 2006.

Fran Mainella,

Director, National Park Service.

[FR Doc. 06–3161 Filed 3–30–06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4312–HJ–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Reclamation

Colorado River Reservoir Operations: Development of Lower Basin Shortage Guidelines and Coordinated Management Strategies for Lake Powell and Lake Mead, Particularly Under Low Reservoir Conditions

AGENCY: Bureau of Reclamation, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of public availability of a Scoping Summary Report on the development of Lower Basin shortage guidelines and coordinated management strategies for the operation of Lake

APPENDIX C

BLM MEDIA RELEASE AND DISTRIBUTION LIST

BLM News

NEVADA STATE OFFICE NO. 2006-34
FOR RELEASE: April 10, 2006
CONTACT: JoLynn Worley, 775-861-6515

EIS Process to Start on Lincoln County Water ROWs

Reno, Nev.--Responding to interest from White Pine County residents, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is scheduling an additional meeting in Baker, Nev., to solicit public comments on the scope of issues to be addressed in individual environmental impact statements (EIS) for two proposed groundwater development projects in Lincoln County. The Lincoln County Water District is proposing the Kane Springs Valley Groundwater Development Project in Kane Springs Valley and the Lincoln County Land Act Utility Rights-of-Way Development Project in Clover Valley and Tule Valley. Meetings are already scheduled in Alamo, Caliente, Las Vegas, Mesquite and Reno.

Open-house meetings to provide information on both project EISs and to obtain public input on the scope of the issues to be addressed will be held in April. A Federal Register notice of intent to prepare an EIS and initiate a 30-day scoping period was published March 31. Scoping comments will be accepted throughout the scoping period, which ends May 1, 2006.

Caliente: Mon., April 10, 7-9 p.m. Caliente City Hall, 100 Depot Rd.
Alamo: Tue., April 11, 7-9 p.m. Alamo Ambulance Barn, 10 Airport Rd.
Mesquite: Wed., April 12, 7-9 p.m. Mesquite City Hall, 10 E. Mesquite Blvd.
Las Vegas: Thurs., April 13, 7-9 p.m. BLM Las Vegas Field Office, 4701 Torrey Pines Dr.
Reno: Mon., April 17, 7-9 p.m. Airport Plaza Hotel, 1981 Terminal Way
Baker: Tue., April 18, 4-8 p.m., Great Basin National Park, Visitor Center classroom.

The Kane Springs Valley Groundwater Development Project EIS will assess the potential impacts associated with granting a right-of-way for construction, operation and maintenance of groundwater wells, pipelines, electric lines, access roads and terminal water storage, as well as impacts on water resources, wildlife, vegetation and other potentially affected resources.

Kane Springs Valley water production facilities would consist of up to seven production water wells located along the utility corridor established by the Lincoln County Conservation, Recreation and Development Act of 2004 (Public Act 108-424). A proposed test/production well site would be located in a “borrow-pit” site along the southeast side of Kane Springs Road approximately 10 miles north of the northernmost production well. Collectively, the wells would pump up to 5,000 acre feet of groundwater per year.

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Groundwater water transmission pipelines would be located in a 20-foot wide permanent easement along the southeastern edge of the Kane Springs Road with lateral pipelines to each well-head/pump house.

Associated ancillary facilities would include distribution power lines and communication lines to be placed in the easement to provide power and communication for the project facilities. Access roads would be needed from the Kane Springs Road for vehicle access to each well site.

The Lincoln County Land Act (LCLA) Utility Rights-of-Way Development Project EIS will evaluate the potential impacts associated with granting a right-of-way for construction, operation and maintenance of groundwater wells, pipelines, electric lines, natural gas pipelines, access roads and terminal water storage, as well as impacts on water resources, wildlife, vegetation, and other potentially affected resources.

The LCLA Utility Right of Way Development Project would include up to eight production water wells in the previously permitted Toquop Energy Project proposed wellfield area in the Tule Desert hydrographic basin and up to10 production water wells in the Clover Valley hydrographic basin. Collectively, these wells would pump nearly 24,000 acre feet of groundwater per year. A system of pipelines would collect pumped water for conveyance through a main transmission pipeline southeast to the LCLA development area.

Associated ancillary facilities would include distribution/transmission power lines and communication lines to be placed in the easement to provide power and communication for the project facilities. A wastewater return pipeline would also be constructed to enable use of reclaimed water produced within the LCLA development area by the already permitted Toquop Energy power plant. In addition, a natural gas pipeline would parallel the water pipeline from the existing Kern River Natural Gas pipeline south to the LCLA area.

Rights-of-way for projects within utility corridors established by the Act would be granted in perpetuity. Right-of-way for all other features of these projects would be 30 years. The projects would operate year round.

Further information is available by calling Penny Woods at the BLM Nevada State Office at 775-861-6466, or on the Internet at www.nv.blm.gov.

-30-

	Reno/Sparks (99)				
	E-Mail address	**Phone #**	**Name**	**Source**	**Location**
	editor@nevadaappeal.com	775-882-2111	Nevada Appeal	Newspaper	Carson City, NV
	news@rgj.com	775-788-6200	Reno Gazette-Journal	Newspaper	Reno, NV
	tanderson@rgj.com	775-885-5560	Reno Gazette-Journal	Newspaper	Reno, NV
	apreno@ap.org	775-322-3639	Associated Press	Newspaper	Reno, NV
	tribunenews@sparkstribune.net,	775-359-3837	Sparks Daily Tribune	Newspaper	Reno, NV
	dennism@newsreview.com	775-324-4440	Reno News & Review	Newspaper	Reno, NV
	steve.halliwell@cox.com	775-856-2121	UPN/KAME FOX/KRXI	Television	Reno, NV
	patm@knpb.org	775-784-4555	PBS/KNPB	Television	Reno, NV
	news@kolotv.com	775-858-8880	ABC/KOLO	Television	Reno, NV
	asegura@kazrtv.com	775-333-2727	Azteca/KARZ	Television	Reno, NV
	prmugs@krnv.com	775-322-4444	NBC/KRNV	Television	Reno, NV
	david.marz@citcomm.com	775-789-6700	AM/KKOH FM/KBUL,KNEV,KWYL	Radio	Reno, NV
	music@973radio.com	775-825-3183	AM/KJFK, KBZZ, KZTO FM/KRNO, KWNZ, KODS, KLCA	Radio	Reno, NV
	steved@lotusradio.com	775-329-9261	AM/KHIT FM/KHIT, KDOT, KOZZ, KUUB	Radio	Reno, NV
	psa@kqlo.com	775-322-0847	AM/KQLO	Radio	Reno, NV
	tjoy@unr.edu	775-327-5867	FM/KUNR	Radio	Reno, NV
	radio@lavoccristiana.com	775-348-5850	AM/KXTO	Radio	Reno, NV
	prod@kptlradio.com	775-884-8000	AM/KPTL FM/KCMY	Radio	Reno, NV
	mario@ahoranews.com,	775-323-6811	Ahora Newspaper	Newspaper	Reno, NV
	Las Vegas (98)				
	EVogel@reviewjournal.com	702-383-0211	Las Vegas Review-Journal	Newspaper	Las Vegas, NV
	aplasvegas@ap.org	702-382-7440	AP Las Vegas	Newspaper	Las Vegas, NV
	metroeditors@lasvegassun.com	702-385-3111	Las Vegas Sun	Newspaper	Las Vegas, NV
	editor@hbcpub.com	702-292-2302	Boulder City News	Newspaper	Las Vegas, NV
	jean.norman@hbcpub.com	702-435-7700	Green Valley News	Newspaper	Las Vegas, NV
	pvmirror@air-internet.com	775-727-5583	Pahrump Valley Gazette	Newspaper	Las Vegas, NV
	akiraly@lvpress.com	702-871-6780	Las Vegas City Life	Newspaper	Las Vegas, NV
	dmcmurdo@pvtimes.com	775-727-5102	Pahrump Valley Times	Newspaper	Las Vegas, NV
	bullseye@nellis.af.mil	702-652-8027	Nellis AFB Bullseye	Newspaper	Las Vegas, NV
	lvsvrelease@yahoo.com	702-380-8100	Las Vegas Sentinel-Voice	Newspaper	Las Vegas, NV
	nevadawoman@aol.com	702-258-4322	Nevada Women	Newspaper	Las Vegas, NV
	tonielasvegas@aol.com	702-796-5502	Las Vegas Asian American Times	Newspaper	Las Vegas, NV
	stang@klastv.com	702-650-1953	Las Vegas Sun & KLAS Chan 8	Television	Las Vegas, NV
	news@kvwb21.com	702-382-2121	WB & Gold	Television	Las Vegas, NV
	newsdesk@klastv.com	702-792-8888	CBS	Television	Las Vegas, NV
	sfujiyama@klvx.org	702-799-1010	PBS	Television	Las Vegas, NV
	lamanivong@ktnv.com	702-876-1313	ABC	Television	Las Vegas, NV
	news3@kvbc.com	702-642-3333	NBC	Television	Las Vegas, NV
	lish@kvvu.com	702-435-5555	FOX	Television	Las Vegas, NV
	5newsdesk@kvvu.com	702-435-5555	FOX	Television	Las Vegas, NV
	power88@power88lv.com	702-648-4218	FM/KCEP	Radio	Las Vegas, NV

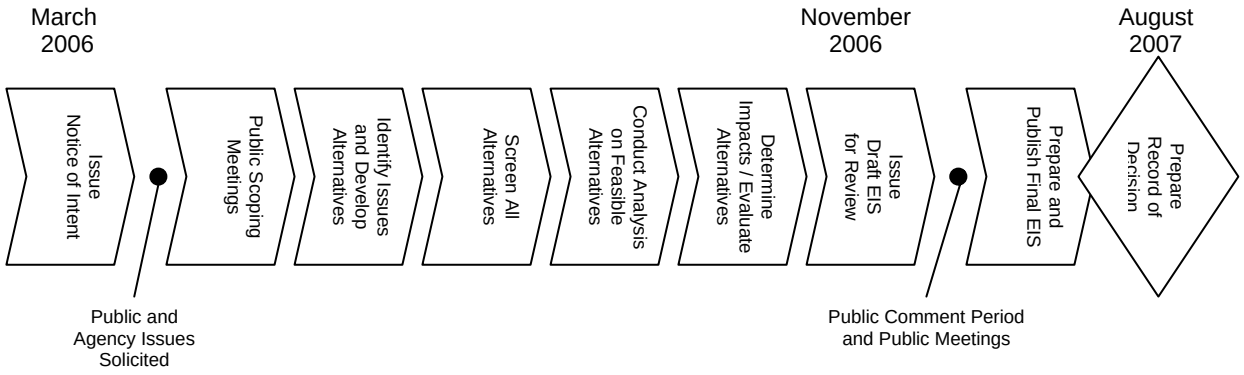
	Las Vegas (98) cont				
	E-Mail address	**Phone #**	**Name**	**Source**	**Location**
	kdwn@earthlink.net	702-385-7212	AM/KDWN	Radio	Las Vegas, NV
	andy@komp.com	702-876-1460	AM/KENO,KBAD FM/KOMP,KXPT	Radio	Las Vegas, NV
	info@sosradio.net	702-731-5452	FM/KSOS	Radio	Las Vegas, NV
	avierra@knews970.com	7002-735-8644	AM/KNUU	Radio	Las Vegas, NV
	jen@bbgilv.com	702-739-9600	FM/KKLZ, KSTJ, KJUL	Radio	Las Vegas, NV
	davidallen@bbgilv.com	702-739-9600	FM/KKLZ, KSTJ, KJUL	Radio	Las Vegas, NV
	ky@knpr.org	702-258-9895	FM/KNPR, KCNV	Radio	Las Vegas, NV
	metrodesk@latimes.com	213-237-5000	LA Times	Newspaper	Los Angeles, CA
	bpeditor@lvpress.com	702-871-6780	Business Press	Newspaper	Las Vegas, NV
	ntmgr@cmaaccess.com	702-298-6090	Laughlin Nevada Times	Newspaper	Laughlin, NV
	Other (97)				
	news@elkodaily.com	775-738-3118	Elko Free Press	Newspaper	Elko, NV
	editor@elynews.com	775-289-4491	Ely Times	Newspaper	Ely, NV
	news@lahontanvalleynews.com	775-423-6041	Lahontan Valley News-Eagle	Newspaper	Fallon, NV
	metro@sfchronicle.com	415-777-1111	San Francisco Chronicle	Newspaper	San Francisco, CA
	jpimentel@examiner.com,	415-359-2766	San Francisco Examiner	Newspaper	San Francisco, CA
	editorial@humboldtsun.com	775-623-5011	The Humboldt Sun	Newspaper	Winnemucca, NV
	office@battlemountainbugle.com	775-635-2230	Battle Mountain Bugle	Newspaper	Battle Mountain, NV
	Hbertolino@tonopahtimes.com	775-482-3365	Tonopah Times-Bonanza	Newspaper	Tonopah, NV
	khildebrand@recordcourier.com	775-782-5121	The Record-Courier	Newspaper	Gardnerville, NV
	mcnews1270@sbcglobal.net,	775-945-2414	Mineral County Independent	Newspaper	Hawthorne, NV
	Eroth@tahoebonanza.com	775-831-4666	North Lake Tahoe Bonanza	Newspaper	Incline Village, NV
	wendy@r-miner.lovelock.nv.us	775-273-7245	Lovelock Review-Miner and Nevada Rancher	Newspaper	Lovelock, NV
	advocate@wrecwireless.coop	775-664-2300	Wendover Advocate	Newspaper	Wendover, NV
	ktrout@masonvalleynews.com	775-463-4242	Mason Valley News/Leader-Courier (Yerington)	Newspaper	Yerington, NV
		775-575-4999	Leader-Courier	Newspaper	Fernley, NV
		775-246-0188	Leader-Courier	Newspaper	Dayton, NV
	lori@elkoradio.com	775-728-1240	AM/KELK FM/KLKO	Radio	Elko, NV
	kdssfm@wpis.net	775-289-6474	FM/KDSS	Radio	Ely, NV
	kvlv@phonewave.net	775-423-2243	AM/KVLV FM/KVLV	Radio	Fallon, NV
	joyce@kwnaradio.com	775-623-5203	AM/KWNA FM/KWNA	Radio	Winnemucca, NV
	walteria1984@yahoo.com	775-623-5203	AM/KWNA FM/KWNA	Radio	Winnemucca, NV
	howard@elyradio.com	775-289-2077	AM/KELY FM/KCLS	Radio	Ely, NV
	mweiser@sacbee.com	916-321-1000	Sacramento Bee	Newspaper	Sacramento, CA
	editor@hcn.org	970-527-4898	High Country News	Newspaper	Paonia, CO
	lincolncountyrecord@lcturbonet.com	775-726-3333	Lincoln County Record	Newspaper	Caliente, NV
	editor@mailboxnews.com	775-753-8200	Elko Independent	Newspaper	Elko, NV
	lctime@aol.com	530-257-5321	Lassen County Times	Newspaper	Susanville, CA
	oilwell@aol.com	775-674-4000	NV Farm Journal	Newspaper	Sparks, NV

APPENDIX D

PUBLIC SCOPING ANNOUNCEMENT MAILER

KANE SPRINGS VALLEY
GROUNDWATER DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (EIS) STEPS AND PROPOSED TIMELINE



The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed Kane Springs Valley Groundwater Development Project proposed by the Lincoln County Water District (LCWD). The Kane Springs Valley Groundwater Development Project EIS will assess the potential impacts associated with granting right-of-way for construction, operation and maintenance of groundwater wells, pipelines, electric lines, access roads and terminal storage, as well as impacts on water resources, wildlife, vegetation and other potentially affected resources.

The BLM would like your participation in the project planning process to help identify potential environmental issues, concerns, and alternatives that should be addressed in the EIS. Participation in this process can be via letter, e-mail, fax, phone, or attendance at one of the Open House scoping meetings. Open House/Scoping meetings will be held in the following locations:

- April 10, 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m., Caliente City Hall, 100 Depot Rd, Caliente
- April 11, 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m., Alamo Ambulance Barn, 10 Airport Rd. Alamo
- April 12, 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m., Mesquite City Hall, 10 E. Mesquite Blvd. Mesquite
- April 13, 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m., BLM Las Vegas Field Office, 4701 Torrey Pines Drive, Las Vegas
- April 17, 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m., Airport Plaza Hotel, 1981 Terminal Way, Reno

Comments may also be submitted by mail, fax, e-mail or phone as follows:

Mail: Bureau of Land Management
Nevada State Office
1340 Financial Boulevard
Reno, Nevada 89520
Attention: Penny Woods

Fax: (775) 861-6712
Attention: Penny Woods

E-mail: penny_woods@nv.blm.gov

Phone: Penny Woods (775) 861-6466

Scoping comments will be accepted throughout the scoping period, which ends May 1, 2006. There will be additional opportunities to comment on the title transfer throughout the EIS process. It is BLM's practice to publicly disclose respondents' comments, including names and addresses.

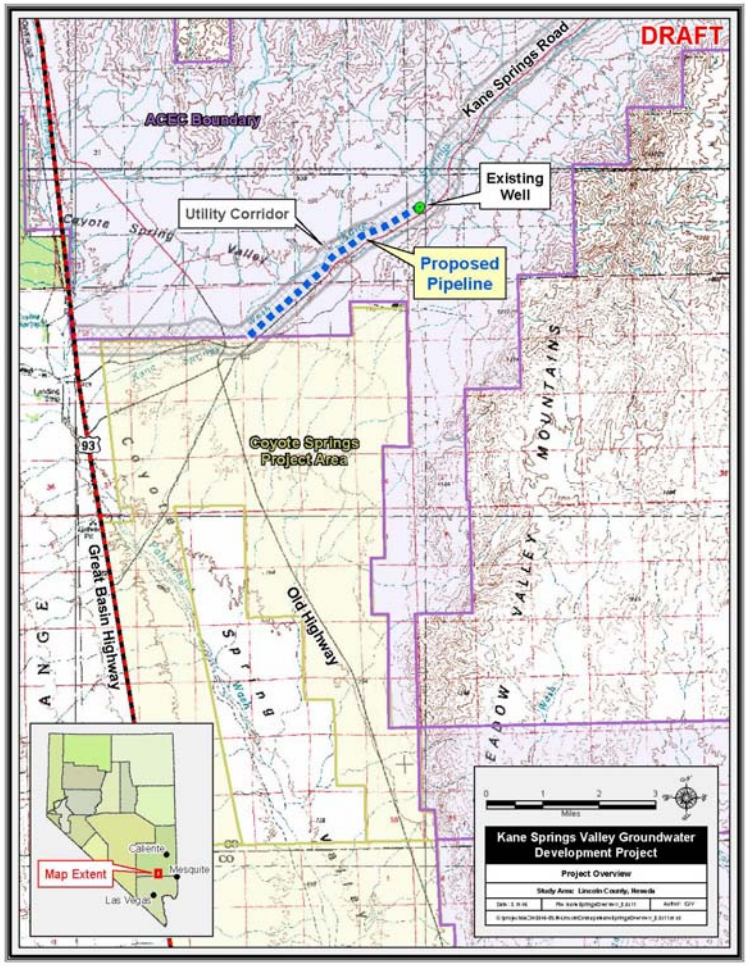
Respondents may request that their identity and address be withheld from disclosure; this will be honored to the extent allowable by law. If you wish us to withhold your name and/or address, you

must state this prominently at the beginning of your comment. All submissions from organizations or businesses will be publicly disclosed in their entirety.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Kane Springs Valley Groundwater Development Project EIS will assess the potential impacts associated with granting a right-of-way for construction, operation and maintenance of groundwater wells, pipelines, electric lines, access roads and terminal water storage, as well as impacts on water resources, wildlife, vegetation and other potentially affected resources.

Kane Springs Valley water production facilities would consist of up to seven production water wells located along the utility corridor established by the Lincoln County Conservation, Recreation and Development Act of 2004 (Public Act 108-424).



A proposed test/production well site would be located in a "borrow-pit" site along the southeast side of Kane Springs Road approximately 10 miles north of the northernmost production well. Collectively, the wells would pump up to 5,000 acre feet of groundwater per year.

Groundwater water transmission pipelines would be located in a 20-foot wide permanent easement along the southeastern edge of the Kane Springs Road with lateral pipelines to each well-head/pump house.

Associated ancillary facilities would include distribution power lines and communication lines to be placed in the easement to provide power and communication for the project facilities. Access roads would be needed from the Kane Springs Road for vehicle access to each well site.

Issues for analysis in the EIS would be determined by the BLM based upon input from BLM specialists, other agencies, and the public during scoping. BLM resource specialists have identified the following resources that may be impacted from the Proposed Action - (Water Resources, Wildlife/Wildlife Habitat, Special Status Species, Social and Economic Values, Cultural Resources, and Noxious Weeds). These resources would receive special emphasis in the EIS. Based on the information received during the initial scoping effort and other information, such as location of sensitive natural resources and projected construction activity, alternatives to the LCWD proposal will be identified to reduce possible impacts. Alternatives would include the Proposed Action and all other feasible and reasonable alternatives, including the No Action alternative. Other alternatives may include alternative alignments. In addition, reasonable measures to mitigate possible impacts would be considered for analysis in the EIS.

Comment Form

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is holding scoping meetings to help identify the range, or scope, of issues related to the Lincoln County Groundwater Development and Utility Right-of-Way Project and the Kane Springs Valley Groundwater Development Project. The issues identified during the scoping process will be considered and addressed during preparation of the environmental impact statement. Please take a few minutes to complete the appropriate sections of this form to be included on the project mailing list and to provide any comments or questions you would like addressed. Written comments can be submitted during the Open House/Scoping Meeting, mailed to the address on the back of this sheet, or faxed to 1-775-289-1910. For more information about the project, please go to www.nv.blm.gov or call Penny Woods at 1-775-861-6466 or Dan Netcher at 1-775-289-1872.

Please check all that apply:

☐ **I would like to be kept informed of the ongoing progress of the Lincoln County Groundwater Development and Utility Right-of-Way Project. Please include my name on the mailing list.**

☐ **I would like to be kept informed of the ongoing progress of the Kane Springs Valley Groundwater Development Project. Please include my name on the mailing list.**

Please Print

E-mail address

Name

Organization

Street Address

Daytime Phone No. (*optional*)

City **State** **Zip Code**

Please indicate any questions, comments, or concerns you have about the project in the comment section below (continue on separate sheet if necessary).

Please fold in thirds, tape, and affix postage

Affix
Postage

BLM – Nevada State Office
P.O. Box 12000
Reno, Nevada 89520

BLM – Nevada State Office
c/o Penny Woods, Project Manager
P.O. Box 12000
Reno, Nevada 89520
